

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Politics and the law
John Morris, QC, on the need to keep judges out of the political battlefield

Party pieces
Suzy Menkes sizes up the season's cocktail dresses and sparkling make-up

Reach for the sky
An appraisal of architect Richard Seifert, who has redrawn London's postwar skyline

On Broadway
Holly Hill sees quality as well as quantity in America's theatrical Mecca

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by three winners yesterday. They were Mr James Page of New Malden, Surrey; Ann Gibbon of Burton Joyce, Nottingham and the Rev Barry Gilbert of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. Each receives £666 66p. Portfolio list, page 18. How to play, information service, page 28.

Bank cuts base rate to 9.75%

Barclays Bank reduced its base lending rate from 10 to 9.75 per cent. The other three big clearing banks are expected to leapfrog Barclays with cuts to 9.5 per cent this week. Page 19

British Steel boost

British Steel, into which successive governments have injected more than £2,000m in the past 15 years, has almost reached break-even, despite its £100m costs due to the miners' strike. Page 2

Blasts kill 80

At least 80 people were killed and more than 300 injured in a series of explosions followed by a fire at a natural gas processing complex in Mexico City. Page 5

Pill ban fight

Mrs Victoria Gillick asked the Court of Appeal to ban doctors prescribing the contraceptive Pill to under-age girls without their parents' consent. Page 3

Karpov spur

Karpov played yet another draw with Kasparov but will need to speed up now to get into the Chess Olympiad, under way at Salonika, where the Soviet team needs him. Page 5

Turk shot dead

A Turkish diplomat working for the United Nations was shot dead in Vienna by a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Army. Page 6

Race law defied

The Progressive Federal Party, the main opposition party in the South African Parliament, has decided to defy the law and admit members of all races. Page 5

England lose

England slumped to an embarrassing defeat against the Indian Under-25 side in Ahmedabad by a innings and 59 runs. Page 23

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Irish summit again soon after 'realistic' talks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, ended their two-day Chequers summit yesterday with an agreement to meet again early in the new year to continue discussions about the political future of Northern Ireland and improved cooperation between their two governments to combat terrorism.

After discussions described by Mrs Thatcher as the "fullest, frankest and most realistic" that she had had with Dr FitzGerald, the decision to meet again so soon was being portrayed by both sides last night as the most positive outcome of the nine hours of talks, two of which the Prime Ministers spent on their own.

The Irish Government, which in recent weeks had been reconciled to the likelihood of little in the way of a substantive British response to the report of the new Ireland Forum, was not surprised.

Indeed, at her press conference afterwards Mrs Thatcher made plain that she rejected the forum's three suggested solutions to the Irish problem. She said that unification was out, confederation was out, and she also rejected the third proposal, a joint authority to run the province. That she said was a derogation from sovereignty.

But while Mrs Thatcher's main emphasis was on the need for the Ulster political parties to begin talking again, and her expressed hope that Dr FitzGerald would encourage the Social and Democratic Labour Party to take part, Irish officials were pleased at the apparent progress made towards giving the minority population and their aspirations and Irish identity more recognition in the province's institutions.

The communiqué, as expected couched in low-key terms, said that the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach had agreed that "the identities of both the majority and the minority communities in Northern Ireland should be recognized and respected, and reflected in the structures and processes of Northern Ireland in ways acceptable to both communities."

Mrs Thatcher made it clear immediately at her press conference that no decisions had been reached and declined to indicate what steps might be taken as a result of the future negotiations.

"We intend to pursue the aim of lasting peace and stability and of reconciliation with good will and determination and that was the general atmosphere and spirit of the talks," she said. "I do not wish to raise expectations that everything will be solved next time. I do not think it will be. But I hope we will be able to get a little further."

In stressing the need for Ulster's political parties to talk about a political solution Mrs Thatcher said repeatedly that a settlement could not be imposed from London. "We are conscious that if we did it would not work."

Mrs Thatcher said she saw no reason why Dr FitzGerald should face any criticism in Dublin over the outcome of the summit. The expectation that there would be firm British proposals in response to the forum's report were never realistic and should not have been raised.

Asked whether there was any discussion about even a consultative role for Dublin within the present structure of the North, Mrs Thatcher again declined to give details.

Dr FitzGerald described the talks as most extensive and constructive. He stressed the importance of the continuing dialogue through the Anglo-Irish Inter-Government Council.

The discussions had reached a considerable measure of agreement on the nature of the security problem and a shared commitment to try to resolve it, he said.

Richard Ford writes: Unionist politicians reacted with traditional "not an inch" responses and said that apparent interference by the Dublin Government in the political process would be unwelcome. They believe that officials in London and Dublin are plotting to dilute the union.



Meeting of minds: Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald yesterday. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Record 2,282 miners opt for return to work

- A record number of striking miners, 2,282, returned to work, taking the total of pits producing coal to 59 out of 174.
- A disappointed NCB, which had been expecting a majority of miners to be back by Christmas, now believes the dispute will go into the new year.
- Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, attacked Mr Arthur Scargill for "not caring about the coal industry or the miners". Page 2
- Vandals caused an estimated £250,000 damage at NCB offices at Cadeby, South Yorkshire. Page 2

By Paul Rontledge, Labour Editor

A record 2,282 miners broke ranks and went back to work for the first time yesterday; there was some disappointment within the National Coal Board, however, that the figure was not higher.

On yesterday's figures, the "drift back to work" is unlikely to yield a majority of pitman back at their jobs by Christmas and the board now is expecting the strike to last into the new year.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, said last night that there had been a modest acceleration in the return to work, but he fought shy of his earlier prediction that more than half the industry's manpower would be back at their jobs over the next five weeks.

His assessment coincided with the view coming out of the militant Yorkshire coalfield that the return to work had been slowed by picketing and social pressure in the pit villages.

But Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, insisted that there was "a very big return to work" taking place in the coalfields. "If it were for the mobs, the violence, and the intimidation, I think the majority of miners would be back at work," he said.

Detailed figures from the areas showed that more men went back in the strike stronghold of Yorkshire and that the number of pits producing coal went up to 59 of the industry's total of 174.

In Yorkshire, 455 men went back to work, bringing the total in the coalfield to 1,721. In percentage terms, the biggest return was still in north Derbyshire, where many more men went back, permitting production to get under way in most collieries.

In the High Court, dissident Yorkshire miners from the Manton mine had to accept a three-week delay in their efforts to have a receiver appointed to run the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The hearing was adjourned until December 10, when the Yorkshire pitmen will also seek an injunction halting the spending of union cash on the strike.

The overall figure released by the board last night of striking miners and those at work said that 34 pits had 80 men at work. A total of 59 coalminers were in production and 140 had some men at work.

NUM leaders took their case for fresh industrial backing to a meeting of transport and power unions yesterday, at which Mr Norman Willis TUC general secretary reaffirmed his backing for the striking miners. He also repeated his support for the unions taking action in line with the labour movement's policy to "black" the movement of coal and alternative fuels to the power stations.

● The coal board in north Derbyshire has called in a firm of auditors to check its return-to-work figures after allegations from NUM officials that they are inaccurate (Craig Seton writes).

The initiative was taken by Mr Ken Moses, the board's north Derbyshire director.

● Energy consumption in the first nine months of this year has been cut by the equivalent of 3.4 million tonnes of coal in the Government's drive to beat the miners' strike, it was disclosed last night (the Press Association reports).

Walker attack, page 2
Letters, page 11

Telecom sale likely to attract £8bn

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

British Telecom remained silent about its acquisition plans yesterday as the Government's well-rehearsed marketing machine began the final preparations for today's launch of the record £3,900m sale of shares in the corporation.

The share offer is formally launched today with the publication of the full prospectus in *The Times* and other national newspapers. Another 1.3 million copies of a specially-abridged version containing an application form are due to be delivered this morning to those who have expressed an interest in buying shares.

The share offer closes at 10 am on November 28.

Stockbrokers and analysts continue to predict that the issue could be twice oversubscribed, with £8,000 million or more chasing the £3,915 million worth of shares on offer. They expect the shares to trade at 10p to 15p above the 130p offer price when dealings start on December 3.

British Telecom would neither confirm nor deny reports that it wants to buy a 20 per cent stake in Northern Telecom, Canada's largest manufacturer of telecommunications equipment. The corporation said it had studied a number of possible acquisitions and joint ventures as part of its long-term strategy for developing its business after privatization, but emphasized that no decisions had been taken.

Privately, some officials suggested that the reports had been planted in a last-minute attempt to deter investors, as happened with an earlier privatization exercise, the flotation of Britoil, the North Sea company.

Building societies said yesterday they expect the BT share offer to such a success that they would lose more deposits than expected as investors shifted money into BT shares. The latest estimates are that they will lose between £400 million and £500 million. A spokesman for Abbey National said: "We expect it to be a very successful issue."

Despite the huge publicity campaign leading up to the share sale, there was evidence that several investors - and some stockbrokers - were still confused about the exact terms on which the shares are being sold.

The flood of applications expected by next week poses huge logistical problems for the banks which have to sort, allocate and register the applications.

BT series, page 4
Kenneth Fleet, page 19
Prospectus, pages 29-38

Gummer's facts wrong, say bishops

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mr John Gummer, Conservative Party chairman, was angrily accused yesterday of getting his facts wrong in his attack on church leaders on Sunday for not "bothering too much about the facts."

A spokesman for Cardinal Basil Hume said: "What is Mr Gummer on about? He has got his facts wrong."

The Save the Children Fund denied saying what he had attributed to them, that "the church had not done its homework."

A spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said the church



Gaddafi ridicules Cairo claim of death plot

From Austin Sammut, Valletta

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, yesterday dismissed President Mubarak's claim of having foiled a Libyan plot to assassinate Mr Abdel-Hamid Bakoush, a former Libyan Prime Minister, and said it was "to be laughed at and ridiculed."

Colonel Gaddafi, on a three-day official visit to Malta, alleged that the Egyptian President was an official of the Central Intelligence Agency and therefore should not be leading a country. He did not deserve even a reply to his allegations.

At a joint press conference with Mr Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, he said they signed a friendship and cooperation treaty which includes provisions for Libyan military assistance to strengthen the Maltese Army.

In reply to a question on Libyan-British relations, the Libyan leader said that the "people's congresses" had not yet decided to sever relations with Britain and he would welcome improved relations between the two countries.

Asked if he was still helping the British National Union of Miners in its industrial dispute, he said that the assistance for the NUM was coming from the "Union of Producers" in Libya.

Libya, he added, would be prepared to offer financial assistance to the families of 7,000 miners who have been jailed in Britain, as well as to the families of the 3,000 who have been injured and cannot work and to the relations of five miners who have been "slain by the police."

He repeated his remark, first made during an address to Maltese Socialists on Sunday, that President Reagan was "mad."

In concluding his press conference, Colonel Gaddafi said that the liquidation of opponents of his regime abroad was not in his hands but in the hands of the "people's congresses."

Libyan hit list, page 5

Treated blood cuts Aids risk to haemophiliacs

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Essential blood extracts given to thousands of haemophilia sufferers will be heat-treated by next April to eliminate the risk of the virus responsible for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) being transmitted from infected blood donors.

The action to treat blood products containing Factor VIII, which controls blood clotting and is lacking from haemophiliacs, was announced yesterday by the Central Blood Laboratories' Authority, as Elstree, Hertfordshire.

The action comes after the news on Sunday that a second haemophilic death has occurred in Britain from aids.

almost certainly transmitted through infected blood products. Donations from thousands of people are used to make factor VIII, and there is little chance of tracing the origin of an infected sample. However, a method of neutralizing Aids virus by heating blood plasma to 60C for half an hour will be used.

About a third of supplies of Factor VIII are produced at Elstree. The intention is to provide all that needed in the United Kingdom by 1986-87. Meanwhile, supplies will continue to be imported from the United States, where heat treatment is used.

Australian fear, page 5

Israeli fury at possible Arafat UK visit

By David Cross

Israelis are furious that Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, may visit Britain early next month to promote a new biography.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy last night expressed his incredulity at the report, which originated in an Arab newspaper published in London.

It seemed "most unlikely that at a time when Britain was attempting to enlist the cooperation of the international community in forwarding its stated aim in combating terrorism that the chief of an organization engaged in widespread terrorism should be allowed to set foot in the United Kingdom, which itself has been the scene of PLO violence."

The Foreign Office and the publishers of the book confirmed that the possibility of a visit by Mr Arafat had been raised.

A Foreign Office spokesman said it had been discussed at a meeting between Mr Arafat and Mr James Adams, the British Ambassador to Tunisia, in Tunis last September. At that time, Mr Arafat had been unsure about whether he wanted to go.

Last night, a spokesman for Sidgwick and Jackson, which is publishing the book by Mr Alan Hart under the title *Arafat - Terrorist or Peacemaker?*, said he did not expect Mr Arafat to be in London when the book is unveiled on December 16.

The Foreign Office said the security implications would have to be studied carefully before Mr Arafat was allowed into Britain. There was no question of any official contacts being arranged between the PLO leader and members of the Government if he came on a private visit.

Even if there were no difficulties on the British side, Mr Arafat often avoids committing himself to firm travel plans. As a figure with Palestinian and Israeli opponents, he is careful about advertising his movements in advance, and meetings are often cancelled.

Cabinet decision imminent on quitting Unesco

A Cabinet committee is expected to take a decision this week to cancel British membership of Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Anthony Bevins writes).

Notice of withdrawal was given earlier this year because of increasing concern about the management of the Paris-based organization and what was felt to be its increasingly political role. The British subscription was just over £4m last year, but the United States, which is also threatening to withdraw from the end of the year, provides a quarter of Unesco funds.

Steel makes plea on Alliance

By Our Political Reporter

Mr David Steel last night made a plea for the Liberal-SDP Alliance to overcome its "technical differences" swiftly in order to fill the void left by what he called an unelectable Labour Party.

But the Liberal leader contrasted the different characteristics of the two parties in terms of his Alliance leadership partners might not have regarded as complimentary.

Liberals tended to be decentralized and independent whereas the SDP tended to be "centralized and authoritarian", he said.

On the eve of today's key strategy meeting of leaders of the two parties, Mr Steel made plain his conviction that the Alliance must be allowed to develop naturally at constituency level, without undue interference from the centre.

In remarks which would have appealed to the Liberals, a large element of the SDP, but not to Dr David Owen and his close supporters, Mr Steel said in Bonn, at a meeting of German liberals, that it could not be right for the Alliance to decree an organizational straitjacket from the top.

Mr Steel was clearly capitalizing on the apparently growing acceptance within the SDP locally and nationally for the principle of the joint selection of parliamentary candidates, to which Dr Owen, because he regards it as a step towards a merger, remains opposed.

Under an agreement to be completed today, joint selection will remain an exception rather than the rule, but Mr Steel's argument is that where the local parties agree to pick candidates together the SDP nationally should not step in to prevent it.

The Liberals are jubilant over the decision of the Welsh SDP to defy the national line and come to a joint selection agreement with the Liberals, and expect it to happen elsewhere.

Poisoned bars a hoax, says animal group

By Rupert Morris

The Animal Liberation Front said yesterday that its warnings of poisoned Mars bars on sale throughout Britain had been a hoax.

Mr Ronald Lee, the front's press officer, said the only contaminated bars were those delivered to the *Sunday Mirror* and the BBC at the weekend.

Mars bars at various shops have been found with pinpricks and some with notes inside warning of contamination.

Scotland Yard said that no traces of poison had, yet been discovered in any bar on sale, but tcs... were continuing.

Threat to retailers, page 2

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British Steel on break-even target despite miners' strike

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The state-owned British Steel Corporation, into which successive governments have injected more than £12,000m in the past 15 years, has almost reached financial break-even in spite of the severe impact of the miners' strike.

The pits dispute has cost the corporation well over £100m but it has still managed to beat the government target of breaking even before interest payments.

Mr Robert Haslam, who took over from Mr Ian MacGregor as the BSC chairman, says today that the corporation's half-year trading results up to September 29, due to be published next month, would reflect the corporation's improved production and commercial performance. He was determined to see the corporation free of state assistance by the EEC-imposed deadline of the end of 1985.

He said that the cost of "countering NUM-led initiatives" against it was estimated at £3.5m to £4m a week, much of it due to the employment of "extraordinary" methods of supply and transport to ensure deliveries of raw materials to the steelworks.

"Despite these attempts to disrupt its operations, the corporation has succeeded in maintaining production at normal levels and is satisfying all its customers' needs," he said.

Mr Haslam's remarks clearly are aimed at influencing Thursday's meeting of the European Council of Ministers when Britain is expected to press for a relaxation of the production quotas imposed on the corporation under the commission's steel crisis measures.

British steel output figures for October show that the industry is achieving one of its best levels of productivity. Mr Haslam said: "As the corporation expects these trends to continue into 1985, future results will depend heavily on European quota arrangements holding against the threat of price depression."

In a veiled hint about the need to keep wages down, he said that the continued understating of management and employees was needed; "further efforts have to be made towards an even firmer competitive cost base."

Big majority for unions in closed-shop ballot

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

One of the first closed-shop ballots conducted under employment legislation has resulted in a vote in favour of the unions.

Out of 695 union members at the American-owned Cosworth Electronics, Harlow, Essex, 627 cast their votes, and 574 of those backed the post-entry closed-shop - almost 92 per cent of those who voted and 82 per cent of those entitled to vote.

The result was received with satisfaction by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU), which has 555 members at the plant. Unlike the rest of the Labour movement, the EETPU will support local officials who want to cooperate with such ballots.

Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and its white collar section, TASS, could, however, face disciplinary action

Water body blames loan demand for higher rate

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

The Thames Water Authority accused the government yesterday of forcing it to charge much higher rates next year than it wanted.

Its 11,000,000 customers in London and much of southern England would be forced to pay an extra 10 per cent for their water next year instead of the 3 per cent originally planned.

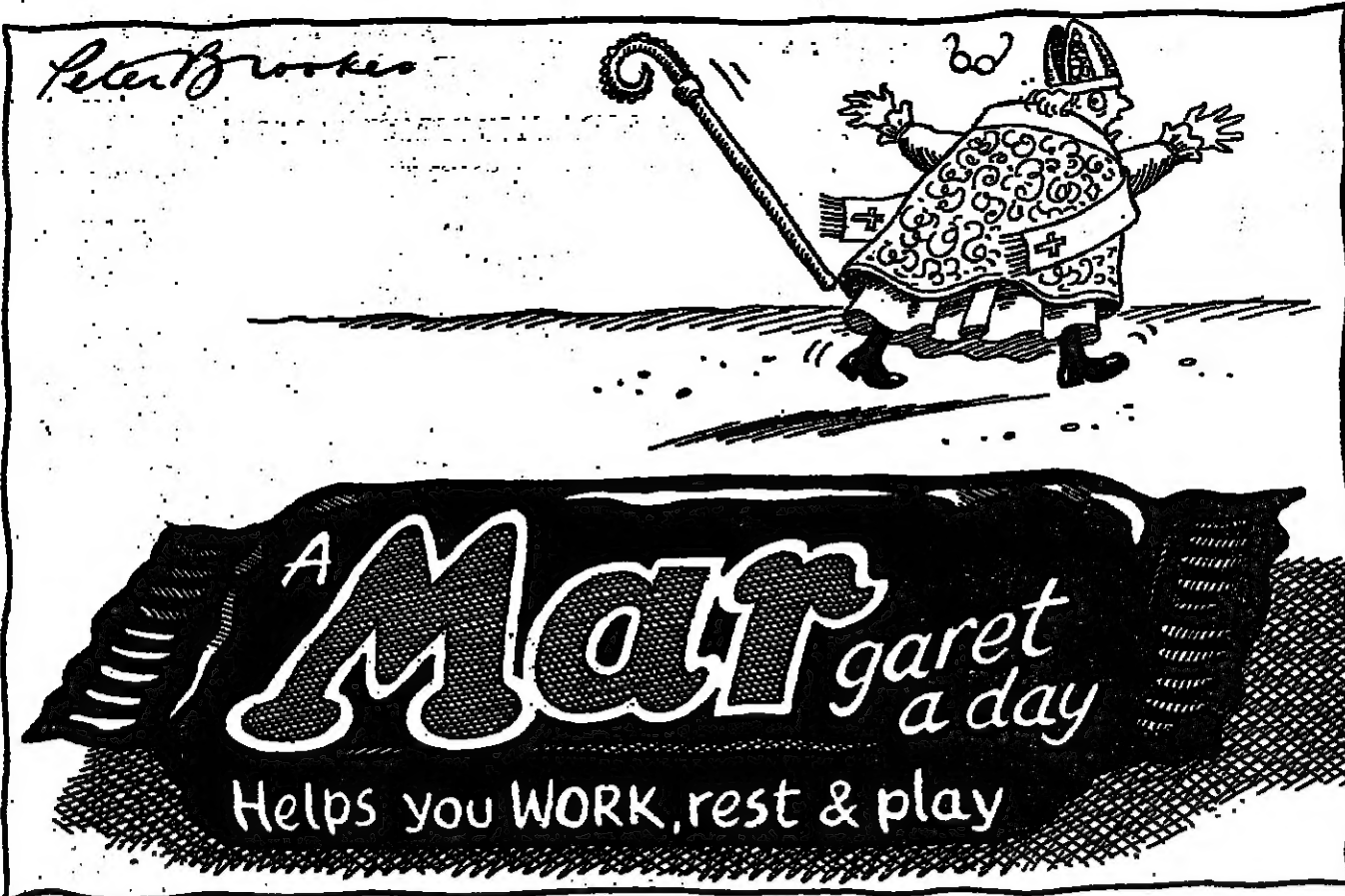
The authority said that the reason for the higher increase was a sudden government order to speed up repayment of loan. Leaders of the authority sent a letter of protest to Mr Ian Gow, Minister for housing and construction, complaining about "unnecessary and uncommercial repayments".

Members were annoyed because only last week the government explained after the chancellor's autumn statement that water rates would have to rise faster than the cost of living because the 10 water authorities in England and Wales were expected to borrow less while investing more on repairing leaky mains and antiquated sewers.

Thames said yesterday that the explanation might apply to the other nine authorities, but not to it. It was the only self-financing water authority, and the whole of the extra increase would be caused by the Government's loans order. The Department of the Environment declined to comment.

Mr Frances Morrell, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, yesterday demanded an apology for statements made last week by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment. He said that members of the Labour-led authority would risk surcharges and disqualification if they tried to charge rates above a government ceiling to be fixed soon.

Her demand, made to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, brought another warning that there would be "legal consequences" if the authority tried to break through Mr Jenkin's ceiling.



Argentine clergy for UK talks

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

A party of Protestant clergymen from Argentina are to take part in a public discussion of problems in Anglo-Argentine relations, including the Falklands issue, at next week's meeting of the British Council of Churches.

The meeting will also discuss the present economic situation and the miners' strike. It will be asked to support a call to the Government, other political parties, and both sides in industry to adopt a conciliatory and tolerant approach.

The visiting Argentine churchmen are continuing a number of exchanges with the British Council of Churches, initiated on the British side.

Last year a British delegation went to Montevideo for an initial round of talks, and further contact took place at Vancouver during the World Council of Churches.

Dr Philip Morgan, secretary of the council, said it had not been practicable to invite representatives of the majority Roman Catholic Church. He pointed out that the Protestant churches had played a significant role in liberalizing the climate in Argentina, out of all proportion to their relatively small numbers.

The debate on economic policy and the miners' strike will be based on a paper by Dr Stephen Orchard, of the Division of Community Affairs. The Government's reaction to mass picketing had made it inevitable, he stated, that there would be violence, injury, and death on the picket lines.

The British Council of Churches periodically debates political and economic questions, but has not previously considered the dispute in the mining industry. Its membership includes the main denominations in Great Britain.

'46,000 extra teachers needed'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The government-backed body which advises Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, on teacher numbers says that 46,000 more teachers will be needed by 1993.

The advice, from the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers, coincides with the desire of the Government to reduce the number of teachers. The plans for 1985-86 proposals assumed that local authorities would reduce the number of teachers overall by 6,000 next year.

The committee says that the extra 46,000 teachers will be needed to implement government policy which is far more in-service training; improvement in primary schools; examination reform, and catering for handicapped children; and for the increase in education for the under-fives.

The committee says that with pupil numbers continuing to fall during the remainder of the 1980s, taking on an extra 46,000 would still leave the number of full-time teachers employed by 1992 below the 1984 level of 416,000.

Epileptic boy was beaten, caning dossier says

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The case of an epileptic boy, who was beaten for insolence, has been referred to the European Commission of Human Rights, it was stated yesterday.

That incident and others are described in a dossier of cruelty, published by STOPP, the anti-cruelty pressure group, which also urged Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, to put the dossier on his personal reading list.

"You are a humane man and I find it difficult to believe that you, or indeed anyone with an ounce of sensitivity, could read what follows and still justify the retention of child-beating in schools," Mr Tom Scott, STOPP's education secretary, says in an open letter to the minister.

The dossier says that the epileptic boy, aged 15, who was at school in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, was given one stroke of the cane by the headmaster after he had told a teacher to stick the exam up his backside. The caning left a big welt, according to his mother.

'Mole' worries police

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Police Federation may hold an internal investigation to find the identity of the mole it believes is trying to undermine the position of Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds as the federation's parliamentary adviser.

Mr Leslie Curtis, the chairman of the federation, said last night he was considering an inquiry after the reports in *The Times* last week that Mr Griffiths may be removed from his £10,000 a year job.

Mr Curtis said: "I can say categorically that Eldon Griffiths's services are not to be dispensed with."

32 cruise missiles at Greenham, Nato says

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, confirmed yesterday that 32 cruise missiles were formed into two flights are deployed at Greenham Common in Berkshire.

He said at his headquarters near Mons in Belgium that more than 90 cruise and Pershing II missiles were deployed in Europe. As well as the two flights at Greenham Common, there was one cruise flight of 16 missiles in Sicily and 45 Pershing II missiles in West Germany.

Deployment of the missiles began about a year ago and General Rogers's statement is thought to be the first confirmation that the second flight has been established at Greenham. The arrival of the new missiles, he added, had been fully offset by the withdrawal of other nuclear weapons.

There will ultimately be 96 cruise missiles at Greenham and 64 at Molesworth out of a total of 372 to be deployed in Europe. It is also planned that eventually there will be 108 Pershing II missiles in West Germany.

General Rogers also made clear the resentment among the military authorities in Nato at a decision taken at a ministerial meeting in Canada in October last year to reduce the number of short-range nuclear weapons deployed in Europe from 6,000 to 4,600.

A review had been in progress at his headquarters since 1981 of the desirable size and composition of Nato's battlefield nuclear arsenal, he said.

The ministers' decision to reduce the nuclear stockpile was based on a study by officials, but General Rogers said he did not believe that study had been based on the same amount of analysis as the one being carried out in his headquarters.

Minister fights shy of 'Rubens'

Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, refused yesterday to be drawn into the controversy over the purchase for £1.2m of four 9th century cartoons by the National Museum of Wales which he believes they are by Rubens.

Mrs Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, challenged the minister during question time in the Commons to insist that the cartoons be authenticated. The minister said acquisitions of works were a matter for the museum.

"What he wanted was the appearance of acceptance which being received by those European politicians responsible. It was to have the stamp of respectability and approval and that was how it was interpreted in South Africa, that he had triumphed, and had broken out of two decades of isolation."

Bishop Tutu who was delivering the 1984 Drawbridge Lecture on the theme of "South Africa Today", said that when Mr Botha went on his recent tour of Europe "he was not expecting to be patted on the back."

Bishop Tutu also urged Britain to exert political, diplomatic, but above all economic pressure on the South African government to persuade it to confer with "the authentic leaders of all sections of our community. For us blacks it would mean our real leaders now in jail or in exile."

Sale room

Collector's wealth will go to disaster victims

By Huon Mallalieu

Dr Ip Yee of Hongkong was a scholar and collector of discernment, as well as a charitable man. His accumulations included ancient ceramics and calligraphy, fine jades and wines, artistic erotica and a 1974 Rolls-Royce.

He decreed in his will that all was to be sold for the benefit of victims of natural disasters in China, Hongkong and other parts of the Third World.

Yesterday saw the first sale in the series to be held in Hongkong by Sotheby's, and the ceramics, jades and works of art produced HK\$14,672,570 or £1,488,090, with only 0.5 per cent bought in. Dealers from around the world were present in force, but many of the better pieces were paid by local collectors.

Blue and white pieces were especially in demand, and a private bidder paid HK\$1,485,000, or £150,000, for a Chenghuz palace bowl painted with a frieze of Indian lotus (estimate between HK\$800,000 and HK\$1,000,000). A Ming blue and white dish of the Yongle period painted with a fruiting melon, pomegranate, gardenia and other flowers went to the collector S. K. Ko at HK\$902,000 or £91,481 (estimate between HK\$600,000 and HK\$800,000), and a second floral dish of the same period went to the same bidder at HK\$517,000 or £52,434 (estimate between HK\$450,000 and HK\$550,000).

Spink, the London dealer, paid HK\$231,000 or £23,428 for a fifteenth-century Ming cloisonné enamel tripod censer, formerly in the Garner collection (estimate between HK\$80,000 and HK\$120,000).

Productivity figures back BA case

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has reported an increase in British Airways' labour productivity in three years up to the end of 1983 of 9 per cent a year, more than four times the aviation industry's average.

The IATA figures were used yesterday by the airline to counter the report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies which had ranked it thirtieth out of 34 airlines for efficiency.

British Airways said the institute had made its judgment on comparative figures up to only 1980.

The judge rejected Mr Hopkins' additional contention that the union's rules did not permit union funds to be used to help the miners. He said the union's executive council could give money to "alleviate hardship and distress" among striking miners and their families if it was considered that this would further the interests of the unions members.

Wildlife case adjourned

The trial of two men charged with picking a rare wild plant, due to be heard by magistrates at North Walsham, Norfolk, yesterday, was adjourned until January 14.

The trial, believed to be the first of its kind under the 1981 Wildlife Act, was adjourned because a witness was abroad.

Michael Franklin, of Temple Lane, Temple Balsall, Suffolk, and West Midlands, and David Ashby de la Zouch, of Leicestershire, are accused of uprooting a Water Soldier (*Samolus nigellus*) at Ludham Marshes.

Scargill only wants conflict, Walker says

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, did not care about the coal industry or the miners. Instead, he said, he wanted conflict.

In the bluntest ministerial attack made so far against Mr Scargill, Mr Walker expressed doubts about any new initiative to bring the coal and the National Union of Mineworkers together for negotiations.

He said in an interview on the BBC radio programme, *World at One*, that Mr Scargill personally, as an individual, throughout this dispute has never been interested in the future investment programmes. He has never been interested in the conditions of miners. He has stuck to one demand.

"He knew it was impossible to accept and I do believe that his desire was to continue with conflict."

Mr Walker said that he would rejoice if the NUM was willing to enter constructive negotiations with the board on a programme for the next five years, but he added: "I do not believe Mr Scargill is in that sort of game."

He also blamed Mr Scargill for the divisions that have split mining communities, saying that if there had been a ballot the miners would have been united in their actions.

He said: "Because this man decided to operate in a way in which he would try to deprive them of the ballot, the NUM is divided and impoverished, mining communities are divided, and violence and victimization have been used on a massive scale."

Mr Walker welcomed the latest return to work figures and said that if there had been no violence and intimidation a majority of miners would already have gone back.

He wanted to see an end to the dispute as quickly as possible so as to return the industry to its programme of heavy investment and market expansion, along with replacement industries for miners affected by the closure of uneconomic pits.

The machine were linked to the Board's computer centre at Cannock in Staffordshire. The unit at Cadeby houses records of all surveys and geological work for future development.

The offices had been attacked several times before, but damage had been confined to broken windows. There were no security guards.

The Board said: "The attack has brought the whole planning procedure to a halt. Access to records cannot take place. The whole team has had to be broken up for the moment and we have abandoned the building."



Mr John Cunningham (left) on the picket line that his father crossed yesterday.

NUM official ignores his son to cross picket line

By Staff Reporters

A miners' union leader, Mr John Cunningham, returned to work for the first time yesterday, crossing a picket line that included one of his sons.

Mr Cunningham, aged 59, full-time secretary of Ellington colliery NUM lodge, announced at a weekend meeting of 500 colleagues that he intended to break the strike at Ellington, the largest pit.

Yesterday morning he left his home in Katherine Street, Ashington, escorted by two police officers, to walk to a coal board coach pick-up point.

As the coach, with others, entered the colliery it passed a group of more than 100 pickets who jeered and shouted abuse. One of them was Mr Cunningham's eldest son, Mr John Cunningham, aged 29, a member of the Ellington NUM branch committee.

He said afterwards: "I will not speak to him again."

Last Friday, 150 of the colliery's 2,700 workers reported for duty yesterday that number was increased by 107 "new faces".

In all, another 455 Yorkshire miners returned yesterday, bringing the county total to 1,721.

Leicestershire: Coal board officials said that for the first time more men were working in the county than were on strike. A record 149 men were said to have clocked on.

Derbyshire: In the Derbyshire coalfield there were 361 new starters and the total attendance in the coalfield was 3,519.

Scotland: A second production shift began work at Bilston Glen colliery, near Edinburgh, as the board reported the biggest single day's increase in miners returning to work.

The judge rejected Mr Hopkins' additional contention that the union's rules did not permit union funds to be used to help the miners. He said the union's executive council could give money to "alleviate hardship and distress" among striking miners and their families if it was considered that this would further the interests of the unions members.

The judge had been told by Mr Jim Slater, the union's General Secretary, that pit closures in areas producing coal carried by sea would "unquestionably" result in seamen losing their jobs. Letters, page 11

Bid to appoint receiver for area adjourned

An attempt by two Yorkshire working mines to have a receiver appointed to control the funds of the Yorkshire area of the National Union and prevent them used in furtherance of the strike was adjourned for 21 days in the High Court yesterday.

The Yorkshire Area of the union opposes the application and is also seeking to set aside or vary the order made by Mr Justice Nicholls in September declaring the strike in its area illegal. However, it agreed that its application should also stand adjourned to allow full evidence to be filed.

Judge bars seamen's levy for miners

A levy imposed by the National Union of Seamen on its members in aid of striking miners was outlawed by a High Court judge in London yesterday.

Mr Dennis Hopkins, aged 33, a Sealink ferryman, of Lynwood, Folkestone, Kent, was a deputation from Mr Justice Scott that his union's executive council had broken union rules in the way it imposed the six-month 50p-a-week levy. The levy came into effect on October 1, and raised: Mr Hopkins' union dues, which are deducted at source by his employer, British Ferries, from £1.50 to £2 a week.

A tour of the two stores building yesterday revealed damage to 22 of the 24 offices. In the coal science offices on the ground floor an IBM computer lay smashed, its terminal screen shattered and the keyboard a tangle of wires and microchips. In the adjoining room two terminals were shattered and desks ransacked.

Along the main corridor the vandals had apparently tired of trying to carry the heavy computer terminal away and had flung it to the floor, wrecking it beyond repair.

Throughout the ground floor glass was strewn everywhere, with almost every window and door smashed. Carpets were discoloured and sodden from water from a fire hose left turned on and a water pipe fractured as a vending machine was overturned.

The machine were linked to the Board's computer centre at Cannock in Staffordshire. The unit at Cadeby houses records of all surveys and geological work for future development.

The offices had been attacked several times before, but damage had been confined to broken windows. There were no security guards.

The Board said: "The attack has brought the whole planning procedure to a halt. Access to records cannot take place. The whole team has had to be broken up for the moment and we have abandoned the building."

The police received the alarm at 1.18pm, but did not arrive until 1.43am because of violence from pickets at Cadeby colliery opposite and other vandalism by strikers.

Mother's appeal against Pill for girls based on public policy, QC says

Mrs Victoria Gillick continued her court fight yesterday to ban doctors prescribing the contraceptive pill for under-age schoolgirls without their parents' consent. She asked the Court of Appeal to overturn a High Court judge's refusal to impose the ban.

She asked the Court of Appeal to overturn a High Court judge's refusal to impose the ban.

Mrs Gillick, aged 37, of Old Market, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, has five daughters under the age of 16 and five sons.

Her counsel, Mr Gerard Wright, QC, told Lord Justices Eveleigh, Fox, and Parker: "Her attitude is that if a girl under the age of 16 is involved in sexual relations she is in grave social and moral danger and her physical and mental health is at risk."

"A parent would have a duty to prevent or seek to remove those dangers," he said. "Her attitude is not just a question of personal morality (founded on her own religious beliefs [Mrs Gillick is a Roman Catholic]). It is firmly founded on public policy which protects

all girls under the age of 16 from sexual interference of any kind."

Mrs Gillick began her legal action after the "Guidelines for Doctors" was issued in 1980 by the Department of Health and Social Security. The guidelines said that it was permissible for doctors to give advice and contraceptive to under-age girls without parental consent.

In 1981 she wrote to Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority asking for an assurance that in no circumstances should her daughters be given contraceptives or abortions without her consent. Further, if they asked or such help she should be told.

The authority refused her request and said it was for the doctors to decide, treating each case individually.

When Mr Justice Woolf refused, in July last year, to grant her an order he said doctors would not seek parental consent only in exceptional cases.

He added that doctors "misguided enough" to provide contraception with the intention of encouraging unlawful

sexual intercourse could face criminal proceedings.

Mrs Gillick is appealing against his decision on five grounds:

First, that he erred in law in failing to decide the issue that anyone acting for the health authority could lawfully give contraceptive advice without parental consent; second, that he failed to give her the protection from unjustified interference with her parental rights to which she is lawfully entitled;

third, that he erred in law in holding that she was not entitled to a declaration unless it could be shown that a criminal offence necessarily followed from the issue of the guidelines;

fourth, that he erred in law in finding that most doctors could follow the guidelines without rendering themselves liable to criminal proceedings; and

fifth, that he erred in holding that a trespass is not involved in giving contraception without consent and that girls under 16 may lawfully consent to contraceptive treatment.

The hearing continues today.



Mrs Gillick yesterday: Parents' duty to remove dangers to children.

Origin of goshawks disputed by breeders

The parentage and origins of four goshawk chicks, a rare large short-wing hawk, was at the centre of an appeal against conviction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

At Manchester Crown Court Graham Butterworth, aged 36, a falcon breeder of Chadderton, Oldham, Lancashire, and his wife, Christine, also 36, appealed against their conviction of possessing goshawk chicks contrary to the Act.

Oldham magistrates had fined Graham Butterworth £400 for possession of three goshawk chicks and £100 for possession of one goshawk egg in March. His wife was fined £100 on each charge.

Mr Mark Love, for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which brought the original conviction, told the court yesterday that at issue was the origin of the birds.

He said there were marked differences between the goshawks found in Britain, which were darker and smaller than those found in countries further to the north such as Scandinavia.

The RSPB says that the Butterworths goshawks were of the north European variety being much larger and lighter than those found in Britain. The Butterworths dispute this.

Mr Peter Robinson, a senior investigations officer for the RSPB, told the court that on one of several visits to see Butterworth he had asked him if blood tests would support his parentage claim to which Mr Butterworth replied: Yes.

Mr Robinson later admitted the question was a bluff as blood tests are only at a research stage. He agreed with Mr Richard Carr, for the Butterworths, that he was suggesting that the four original eggs had either been imported or taken from the wild. The case continued today.

British spending rate on housing 'lowest in world'

By Richard Thomson

Britain spends proportionately less money on improving and increasing its housing stock than any other country.

In 1982, Britain spent 2.1 per cent of its gross domestic product on housing. It compares with an average of 5 per cent recorded by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which consists of the advanced western nations. Among the highest are France, which spent 5.7 per cent, and West Germany which spent 6.1 per cent.

That is one conclusion to come from a study of home ownership and housing patterns in 31 different countries.

The proportion Britain spends on its housing has not changed substantially since the early 1970s. The low percentage now is because Britain has a higher quality of housing than most other countries after making a massive investment in housing after the Second World War. But Britain's stock is probably now beginning to deteriorate.

The study also finds that Britain has one of the highest proportions of young owner-occupiers of any industrialized country. Fifty-three per cent of households aged between 25 and 29 are owner-occupiers. In the United States, however, the number is 40 per cent among the same age group.

A large number of young people are forced to buy in Britain, the report says, because the rent laws have led to a severe shortage of accommodation for rent.

Worldwide, Britain comes about the middle of the home-ownership league. The poorest countries tend to have the highest rate of owner-occupation. Bangladesh, at one end, has more than 90 per cent owner-occupiers while Switzerland, at the other end, has 30 per cent. Britain, at 59 per cent, is similar to Italy and Brazil.

Within Europe, the poorer agricultural countries come top in owner-occupation. In Greece around 70 per cent of households own their home.

Political systems do not necessarily affect the ownership pattern. Eastern European countries have a high rate. Hungary's 76 per cent is higher than in any western European country. But ownership in communist countries does not always mean the same as elsewhere. In Hungary, for example, an owner can sell his property only to a buyer approved by the Government.

National Housing Finance Systems - a comparative study, by Mark Boleat (International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations, and Croom Helm, £30).

Small surge expected in market for homes

By Christopher Warman

The property market, which has seen stable prices in the last three months, is likely to make a small surge now because of the reduction in mortgage interest rates, Mr John Thomas, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, believes.

Commenting on the latest RICS survey in which two-thirds of estate agents reported no change in prices, he said that

Property Correspondent in the space of 10 days since the survey was done, the housing market was adapting to a change in local, national and international conditions.

"The surge of return to work in the mining and motor industries will encourage the market in local areas, whilst a marked improvement in the availability and cost of mortgage finance is bound to spur the hesitant purchaser."

Price-cutting shops lose drinks supplies

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Widespread and heavy cutting of drink prices in a battle by retailers to corner Christmas spending led yesterday to manufacturers stopping supplies to some shops because they were allegedly selling below cost.

Supermarket chains are leading the battle by cutting prices to the bone on some lines to persuade customers through their doors. Different chains are using various brands to spearhead the price cuts, including Gordon's gin, Johnnie Walker Red Label and Claymore whiskeys, and Croft Original sherry.

Supplies of Gordon's gin have been stopped to Asda, part of Associated Dairies Group, and International Stores, part of BAT Industries.

Both chains are selling the gin at 26.59 a bottle, between 10p and 75p less than other retailers.

The distiller, Tanqueray Gordon, is part of Distillers Company, which has taken similar action against whole-

salers concerning alleged selling below cost of two of its whisky brands.

The action comes after earlier warnings from Distillers to supermarket chains that supplies would be stopped if Gordon's gin was used as a loss-leader.

Asda and International have large stocks of the gin. International believes it has sufficient to meet demand until about 10 days before Christmas.

Distillers has also stopped supplies of Johnnie Walker Red Label whisky to Nurdin & Peacock, the cash and carry chain, and of Claymore whisky to nearly half the Landmark cash and carry group.

Higher tea sales

A report by Euromonitor Publications yesterday said that consumer spending on tea and coffee rose by a fifth last year. Almost all the rise was caused by a switch to more expensive blends of tea, and to roast and ground coffee in place of instant brands (John Young writes).

£115,000 for hospital blunder

Mr John Tucker was yesterday awarded £115,000 damages in the High Court in London for blunder at Ashford Hospital, Middlesex, where he was treated four years ago for chronic bowel disease.

Mr Tucker, now aged 28, of Pinewood Park, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire, has impaired eyesight and memory. He said his wife left him with his daughter, born while he was in hospital, because he was "not the man she married." Tests showed that his condition had been brought on by lack of thiamin (Vitamin B1).

Mr Tucker sued Hounslow and Spelthorne area health authority, claiming that the hospital failed properly to monitor the drip by which he was fed intravenously for three months after normal surgery. The authority admitted liability and agreed to pay damages and costs.

Charlie Nicholas driving ban

The Arsenal and Scotland football player Charlie Nicholas, aged 22, was fined £150 and banned from driving for three years yesterday for drinking and driving in Glasgow on May 22. He had 64 micrograms of alcohol on his breath, compared with the limit of 35.

Nicholas, from Oakwood, north London, was banned for a year in 1982 for the same offence, Glasgow Sheriff Court heard.

Man threw dog from balcony

Terrance Davies, aged 32, a labourer, of Brixton south London, who threw his mongrel bitch to its death from his fourth-floor balcony, was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment suspended for two years, and banned from keeping a dog for five years by Camberwell magistrates yesterday.

He admitted ill-treating the animal after it pulled down washing on his balcony.

Burrell Museum to stay free

Admission to the Burrell Museum in Glasgow, Scotland's top tourist attraction, will continue to be free, the Labour-controlled Glasgow City Council decided yesterday.

But cars will be charged £1 and coaches £10 to enter Pollok Park, which is half mile away. A bus journey to the museum will cost 50p and next spring a horse-drawn tram will operate at a £1 a trip.

Duck carving

The Wildfowl Trust is to hold a competition for carving decoy ducks out of wood on December 1 at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

Cleaner cleaned out hotel

Maria Unsworth stole just about everything except the kitchen sink from the country hotel where she worked as a cleaner.

Over four years she spirited away items including 13 coffee percolators, 41 bathroom mats, 350 knives, forks and spoons, 10 kettles, five crystal chandeliers, 236 sheets, 180 pillow cases, 426 towels and tea towels, a suitcase full of antiques, tea, coffee, 12 stone of sugar cubes, 60lb of butter, bottles of spirits, cut glass, flower pots, more than 60 ashtrays, 283 toilet rolls, bars of soap, books, brassware, a folding bed, and a laundry sent - and no one missed them.

Mrs Unsworth, aged 48, of Berrymead, Ashstead, pleaded guilty yesterday to stealing property worth more than £13,000 from the Burford Bridge Hotel, near Dorchester, Surrey. Dealing magistrates placed her on probation for three years and ordered her to pay £100 compensation.

Fines for wildlife expert

David Chaffe, a wildlife expert, was fined £200 yesterday for causing unnecessary suffering to an otter in the ill-ventilated basement of his education centre for a month.

Weston-super-Mare magistrates also convicted him of illegally possessing a protected wild bird, a merlin, and fined him £300.

Chaffe, aged 43, who was ordered to pay £500 costs, was acquitted on charges of permitting unnecessary suffering to five birds in his care last November, two kestrels, an owl, a peregrine falcon and the merlin.

Chaffe, of Pembroke House, Trinity Road, Weston, lectures to schools and colleges in the West Country. He formerly ran a wildlife park at Westbury, near Bristol.

Mr John Edmonds, for the prosecution said three birds were tethered in closed vans, which were dirty with droppings and dead chicks.

Banker's golfing downfall

Bank managers should leave business behind when they head for the golf course. They should not see clients at their club, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said yesterday.

Michael David Carr, aged 40, a former manager of Barclays Bank at Tadworth, Surrey, had a four-year jail sentence for obtaining £14,500 from his Bank by deception imposed on

him at Kingston Crown Court, reduced so that he will serve only nine months.

Allowing an appeal by Carr, of Carlton Road, Redhill, against the sentence, Lord Lane said his zeal at the golf club, coupled with indulgence in alcohol, had caused him to take the money.

However, he was a man with a previously excellent character and had repaid the money

More curbs sought on doctors' conduct

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

A Labour MP is to press ahead with a private member's Bill to give the General Medical Council powers to impose conditions on a doctor's registration if his conduct or treatment of patients is unacceptable, in spite of the council's opposition.

Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham South, said that recent moves by the GMC to broaden its definition of serious professional misconduct did not seem to go far enough.

The GMC has expanded its definition of serious professional misconduct clearly to cover cases where doctors are incompetent or inconsiderate to patients. But Mr Spearing said that there was still nothing that gave the council powers to act if the doctors' actions were proved to be unacceptable but were judged to fall short of "serious" professional mis-

conduct, the only change the GMC can bring against a doctor.

"Unless they can advance good reasons to persuade me otherwise, I would expect to reintroduce my Bill," he said. That would allow the GMC to impose conditions on a doctor's registration for "unacceptable" conduct.

Without such a statutory remedy they cannot do anything effective other than give publicity and a dressing-down in public cases which they do not consider serious professional misconduct, but where the conduct is unacceptable."

The GMC has opposed Mr Spearing's Bill.

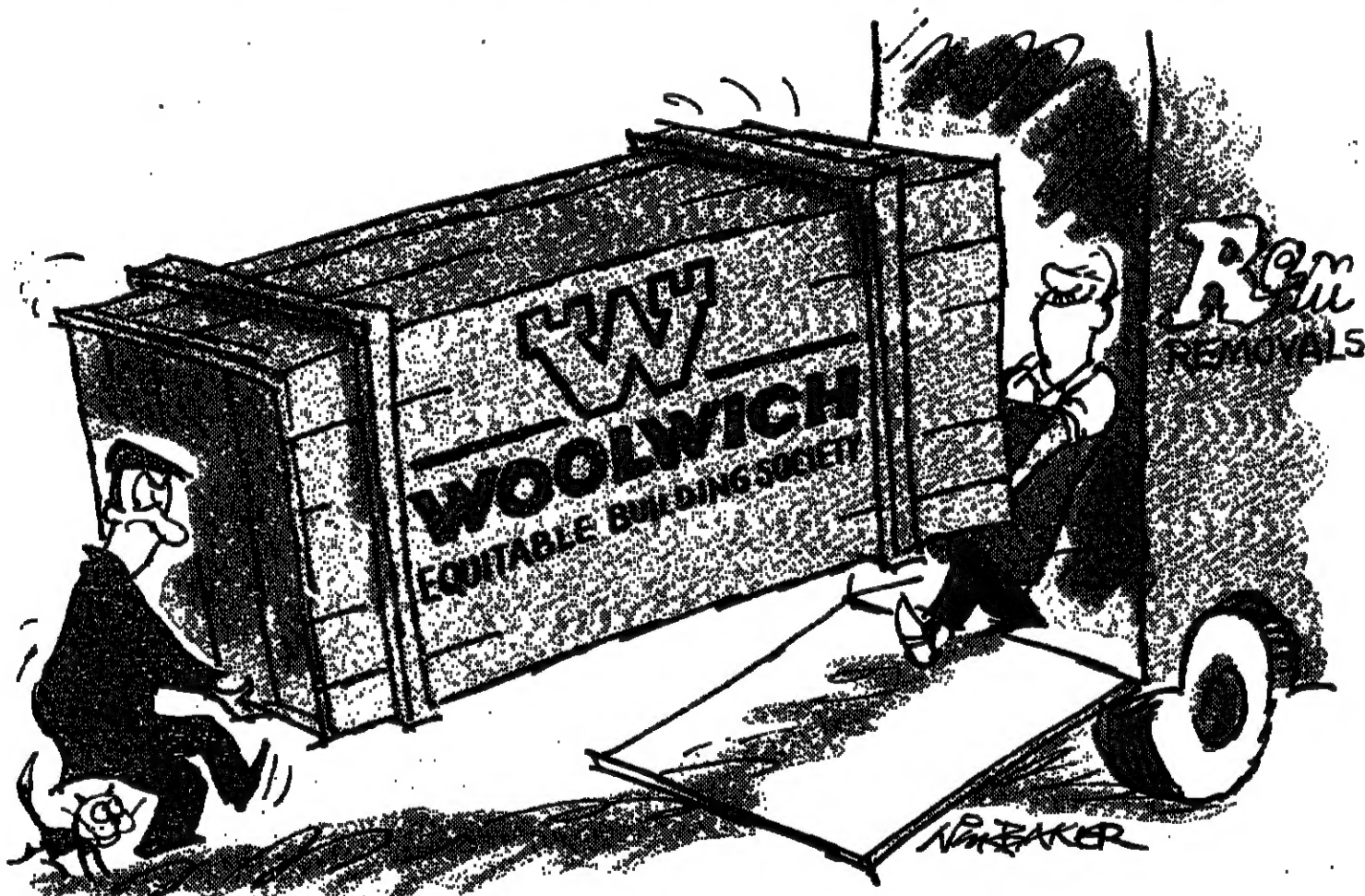
Dr David Jon Rodgers, a Cambridgeshire general practitioner, lost his appeal to the Privy Council in London yesterday against an order striking him off the medical register for serious professional misconduct.

Dr Rodgers, aged 45, of Ramsey Road, St Ives, was struck off in July for failing to visit two seriously ill children.

The Privy Council also dismissed an appeal against being struck off by Dr Douglas Glyn Evans, of Fford Pen-y-fryn, Prestatyn, Clwyd found guilty of an adulterous relationship with a patient.

In cases before the General Medical Council yesterday Dr Muhammad Saleem, aged 40, of Ashmole Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire, described as the instigator of a fraud centring on payments for 55 non-existent locums was suspended for three months.

Dr Anell Kumar Gi Modum, a hospital doctor of Bedwell Gardens, Hayes, West London, who carried out unnecessary genital examinations and tests on young girls admitted for ear, nose and throat surgery, was struck off.



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Animal activists must be stopped, minister says

COMMONS

The activities of the Animal Liberation Front were severely condemned by Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, when he answered questions in the Commons about the reported poisoning of Mars bars on Saturday. Mr Mellor said the whole House (he said) will join me in deploring the Animal Liberation Front's outrageous and irresponsible behaviour.

Mr Peter Brabner (Leicester East, C) said: This is another example of an irresponsible campaigner corrupted by violence and terror tactics. Deliberate children were in danger and could have been very ill if they had eaten any of the Mars bars.

This group appears to care more about animals than humans and this is a disgrace. Were any warnings given? What steps are being taken by his office to monitor the Animal Liberation Front? The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has condemned this outright as totally irresponsible and totally corrupt.

Mr Mellor agreed with his concern. It is a little hard to be lectured about animal rights by people who are plainly so contemptuous about human rights. The problem is this incident is just one of a series of incidents which have been escalating in seriousness throughout recent months. They have involved personal violence against people involved in research work in laboratories.

Three people were put in hospital three weeks ago. Dangerous wild animals have been let loose. The problem facing civilized people is that this kind of behaviour threatens all of us. It is utterly irresponsible and all of us must stand firm against it by assisting the police in dealing with this as soon as possible.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP), a spokesman for the RSPCA, who on television yesterday evening described this monstrous criminal behaviour as understandable, is doing the case of those who are concerned about animal welfare no good at all. What steps are being taken by the police to trace the perpetrators of this offence?

Mr Mellor: Every effort is being made by the police to trace those responsible and inquiries are continuing.

Many MPs are concerned about animal welfare. That is why we have the most rigorous animal welfare laws in the world. That is why the Government is at present negotiating with a wide range of interested groups to reform the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 and bring in

controls which will be even more rigorous.

A large number of animal experiments will be crucial for the foreseeable future if we are to have product safety and consumer diseases which at present have no cure.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) said the Mars affair was only the latest in a series of outrages in which the freedom of people in Britain to go about their lawful business had been interfered with. Butchers, farmers, pet food shop keepers and many other trades had been involved.

Mr Mellor agreed and pointed out that at the end of the last Parliament a law was passed banning the sale of pets from street markets such as Club Row. These extremists only hindered animal rights and did not advance them.

Mr Roger Gale (Thanet, North, C) said he chaired the subcommittee on the replacement of animals in experiments, and was totally opposed to this kind of practice. The only way forward was to fund research into other methods of carrying out experiments.

He would welcome an early statement on the White Paper.

Mr Mellor replied that the Government had donated a substantial sum to research of this kind. The number of animal experiments was falling. In 1976 5,600,000 animals were used, last year this figure had dropped to 3,600,000.

While it was necessary to find alternatives, a number of animals would be needed to conquer disease into the foreseeable future. There were a number of surgical practices, such as the coronary by-pass operation, which had only been brought in through rigorous testing on animals.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) called on the Government to indulge in tear-jerking statements about what would happen if the wishes of the extremists were carried out.

Mr Mellor said he took the point and could not countenance more vaccine-damaged children if, for instance, vaccines went untested.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, C) urged the tests on the suspect Mars bars to be carried out as quickly as possible. Mars was an exceptionally responsible and worthy company.

Mr Mellor said the tests were taking time because they were aimed at trying to find evidence as well as to see if the bars were contaminated.

Mr Derek Spencer (Leicester South, C) said the activities of the Animal Liberation Front went much further than irresponsibility. They deliberately claimed to promote the

private funds. The Government must meet the deficit.

Mr Waldegrave replied that the English National Opera knew that Arts Council funds could not be used for foreign touring, although the minister had wanted the tour to go ahead.

Mr Norman Becham, speaking for the Opposition during questions about the opera company's £700,000 tour deficit, had said the tour had gone ahead with the minister's encouragement. As a matter of honour and a moral duty the Earl of Gowrie should have undertaken the tour (he added) unless it had his imprimatur beforehand. It would not be adequate to leave the matter to

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Pressures for new bodies will be resisted

QUANGOS

Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minister, insisted in a Commons written reply that it remained Government policy to keep the numbers and spending of non-departmental public bodies under tight control. Substantial savings had already been made but there was more to be done.

Sir Philip Halliday (Gedling, C) called on the Prime Minister to ensure that the drive for increased efficiency and effectiveness in the Civil Service was followed through by similar action in public bodies.

Mrs Thatcher said they would continue to keep all non-departmental public bodies under regular scrutiny to ensure that they and their programmes gave value for money.

We shall resist pressures for new bodies (she said) unless we are convinced that a non-departmental body is the most appropriate way to do a particular task.

Since 1979 we have wound up or substantially reduced the expenditure of nearly 700 such bodies, saving some £1.2 billion a year. A recent report by the Cabinet Office/Treasury financial management unit shows that some bodies need better systems for defining their objectives, setting targets and assessing achievement.

Over the next two years therefore departments will be looking in collaboration with the management of their sponsored bodies, at the scope for improving management and control systems and practices, with the aim of producing progressive improvements in performance.

The main programme of work should be completed by April 1987.

Water metering inquiry

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said in a Commons written reply: I have invited the water industry to undertake a joint study with my department and to report to the Government on the possible extension of water metering generally to households.

The chairman of the Thames Water Authority has agreed to head the steering group for this study.

Drink-drive warning

Mrs Lynne Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in a Commons written reply that the Government would shortly be launching its Christmas drink-drive publicity campaign warning drivers of the risks involved in drinking and driving under any circumstances.

Future of Hayward Gallery

The Government still intended that the Hayward Gallery should be managed under the auspices of the Arts Council after legislation on the local government in Greater London, Mr William Waldegrave, Government spokesman on the arts, said during questions.

This led Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) to remark: The Greater London Council's attempt to expel the Arts Council of Great Britain, which has to prepare important art exhibitions, is an act of uncivilized vandalism which shows that the GLC is unfit to run any serious art gallery.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): New Towns and Urban Development Corporation Bill; Criminal Justice Bill; Criminal Justice Bill; Criminal Justice Bill.

British Telecom sale: 2

The advertising of the British Telecom sale has produced the most innovative and expensive share marketing campaign seen in Britain, but taken the Government into new contentious areas, JONATHAN DAVIS, Our Business Correspondent, reports in the second of a three-part series.

The formal launch of the British Telecom sale is the culmination of one of the slickest, most professional and most innovative marketing campaigns in Britain, but one that has pushed the Government into new and potentially contentious areas.

The size of the issue, coupled with the need to sell it to those who have never owned a share, has led the Government into virgin territory.

Equally important, with expected proceeds of nearly £4,000m, the Government has been able to devote unprecedented sums to promoting and engineering the sale. The cost of privatizing BT is likely to top £200m.

Not everybody has been entirely happy. The *Financial Times*, for example, said in an editorial this month that the Government may have pushed too hard in its desire to spread ownership in BT as widely as possible.

Some company directors and City bankers have been torn between envy at what the Government has achieved and concern at some implications.

One innovation has been the decision to produce five million eight-page "mini-prospectuses" for small investors, as well as the statutory information in the full 60-page prospectus.

The full document was considered likely to put off many first-time share buyers, so the Government introduced an

amendment to the Telecommunications Bill exempting the BT mini-prospectus from the requirements of the Companies Act, 1948 and the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, 1958.

Another decision prompting some concern is the Government's promise to pay commissions to banks, stockbrokers, accountants and other professional financial advisers whose clients submit applications through them.

Removing tiresome restraints on British film industry

FILM INDUSTRY

The Government had decided to end the Eady levy on cinema receipts because it had been introduced in the heyday of cinema in order to recycle money from that prosperous sector into the weaker British film production industry and the position had now reversed itself. Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said when moving the second reading of the Films Bill.

The levy had become a penalty for cinema owners, he added, and for many it represented the difference between survival and extinction. There was a high level of activity and some notable successes in the British film industry and the whole market was opening up.

The time had come to sweep away the archaic legislative framework of the film industry which would be better off without the tiresome bureaucratic restraints of registering every film and licensing every distributor and exhibitor.

In the last 30 years, annual admissions to cinemas had fallen from more than 1,250m to about 66m and the figures for the first four months of 1984 showed admissions were down a further 25 per cent on the same period last year. These were undoubtedly hard times for cinema proprietors and cinema managers to close the rate of three or four a month.

The Bill provided a mechanism for ensuring that the National Film Finance Corporation was properly funded for the remainder of its existence. The Secretary of State, with the approval of the Treasury, would be able to dissolve the NFFC at any time after the Eady levy was terminated.

The Secretary of State's new powers to give industry direct financial assistance would take forms. First, the provision of £1.5 million a year to the private sector to the NFFC for the purpose of co-financing film production. Secondly, £500,000 a year would be set aside for project development work.

The Government had been given assurances by three leading companies in the industry that they were prepared to contribute jointly £350,000 a year for three years to finance film production. The organizations concerned were Channel 4, Rank and Thorn-EMI.

In addition, several companies in the video sector represented by the British Videogram Association had shown interest in the new venture. The association expected that £250,000, and possibly more, would be raised from an aggregate of small individual investments for at least three years, possibly longer.

Miners urged to vote with their feet

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary for Wales, urged miners in the Principality to continue voting with their feet and return to work. He hoped a full return to work would not be long delayed and called on Mr Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Opposition, to condemn what he described as the disgraceful scenes at the NUM strike rally in Aberavon.

Mr Keith Best (Ynys Mon, C) had asked Mr Edwards during Commons questions to continue, in the interests of jobs in Wales, to urge South Wales miners to follow their colleagues in Yorkshire and elsewhere rather than the headstrong, self-willed actions of one man - Mr Scargill - who clearly had no interest in the future of the coal industry.

Mr Edwards turned on the chief Opposition spokesman for Wales, Mr Barry Jones, who he understood had spoken at the rally in Aberavon at which Mr Norman Williams, general secretary of the TUC was shouted down. I hope (Mr Edwards said) that Mr Jones, like Mr Williams, condemned violence and urged that a ballot be held, particularly as in his part of Wales the miners have voted with their feet and substantial numbers returned to work.

Sir Anthony Meyer (North West Cymru, C) can give an estimate of the number of jobs lost permanently as a result of a loss of markets because of Mr Scargill's strike?

Mr Edwards: This must be one of the most worrying features. The principal losers will be the miners and the mining industry. Lost markets are difficult to recover. This strike is going to cause great long-term damage.

Mr Michael Foot (Blanaug Gwent, Lab) throughout this dispute Mr Kinnock and Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, have been seeking to get an equitable and decent settlement. Can Mr Edwards say whether he has done anything since the moment this strike started to get it settled?

Mr Edwards: I am glad Mr Kinnock and Mr Orme are trying to get an end to the dispute. I hope they will speak out for a ballot and condemn the violence and the disgraceful

More than 6,000 charged

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply: Between March 13 and November 13 inclusive 6,655 people were charged with offences in connection with the miners' dispute and 3,049 of these cases have now been dealt with.

Inter-city comfort for country folk

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Long-suffering passengers on British Rail's country services will have a taste of inter-city comfort with a new range of local stopping trains due to be introduced during the next five years.

The new "Sprinter" trains is said to be fast, quiet and comfortable, has automatic sliding doors, public address systems and easy-to-clean lavatories. Each train will cost £500,000. The trains will replace the 25-year old bone-shakers now helping British Rail's country services to limp along on provincial routes in England, Scotland and Wales.

The prototype was formally inaugurated on the Derby to Matlock line yesterday, and 50 more, in the East Midlands and the north and central Wales, will follow in the next three years, with countrywide service thereafter.

Speaking at yesterday's launch at Matlock, Mr Malcolm Southgate, general manager of BR's London Midland region said: "This is an exciting day for British Rail. It shows our commitment to provincial services."

The "Sprinter" is part of BR's effort to eliminate widespread obsolescence on its loss-making country services, where 3,000 noisy and uncomfortable diesel multiple units (DMUs), built in the 1960s, are in urgent need of replacement. Another part is the cheaper Railbus for other routes.

Spring water to be chlorinated

Spring water from Herefordshire's Black Mountains has been drunk in Peterchurch for more than a hundred years but council environmental health officers, concerned about the bacteriological quality, have now ordered the addition of chlorine to the supply.

Corruption case bail

A former economic adviser to the treasury was remanded on unconditional bail yesterday after accused of corruption in 1966.

Leonard Judah Richenberg, aged 62, of Templewood Avenue, Hampstead, London, who was an adviser between 1955 and 1957, was arrested after investigations by the Fraud Squad's public sector corruption unit.

He will appear again before magistrates at Bow Street on December 17 on a summons

alleging that a Home Office official corruptly accepted £2,000 from Richenberg, a director of Touchwood Triway. Seven Home Office officials have been suspended from duty after investigations into the Directorate of Prison Industries and Farms, which negotiate contracts with private sector companies for the manufacture of products by prisoners.

Three men were committed by magistrates at Bow Street, in August for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Beer strike ends

A strike by 700 workers at John Smith's brewery at Tadcaster, North Yorkshire ended yesterday after four weeks. Officials of the Transport Union had told the strikers to return to work. Talks are to continue on the company's pay offer of 6.5 per cent.

Gummer not capable of bullying the bishops

THE CHURCH

The bishops of the Church of England were not capable of being bullied by the Chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr John Gummer, or anyone else, Sir William van Straubenzee, Second Church Estates Commissioner, representing the Church Commissioners, said during questions in the Commons in reference to a sermon by the chairman in Cambridge on Sunday.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) asked: Do the clergy of the Church of England work within spiritual or political guidelines and if so what are they?

Sir William van Straubenzee: No guidelines in either are laid down. Mr John Ryan (Blyth Valley, Lab) could be recommissioned to the Church Commissioners an increase in the stipends of the clergy because in addition to their duties they have to endure the intellectual, sterile and sanctimonious utterances of the mediocre Chairman of the Tory Party?

Sir William van Straubenzee: The average stipend had increased by 6.8 per cent compared with the rate of inflation of 4.5 per cent. Everyone, clergy and laity, are greatly stimulated by the utterances of Mr Gummer.

Mr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C) would he accept that the number of redundant churches is likely to rise if the clergy reflect the views of the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, on the resurrection and his talk about a conjuring trick with horses which phrase is grossly offensive to

Hughes: Many will welcome the bishops' views

millions of Bible-believing Christians?

His views on society, the economy and allegedly shoeless families are as eccentric and theologically confused and just as ill founded.

Sir William van Straubenzee: I hope he has read the text of what was actually said and the actual formulation used. The Bishop of Durham is well able to answer for himself in the House of Lords which for me is a great relief.

Mr Mark Hughes (City of Durham, Lab): Many people in the diocese of Durham will welcome the Bishop's forthright views on the coal strike.

Sir William van Straubenzee: I have attempted to understand both sides but perhaps he is more qualified than I to understand the difference between a quip or phrase used round the academic table and instruction and guidance given by bishops.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab): Would not the social and enlightened message of the Bishop of Durham be a welcome contribution to the County of Durham and the whole of the northern region where there is high unemployment? Would he have a word with the Chairman of the Conservative Party and tell him to stop bullying the bishops (laughter)?

Sir William van Straubenzee: You can say any things about the bishop of the Church of England, but you cannot say they are capable of being bullied by Mr Gummer or anybody else.

Mortality of Glasgow babies falls

The Greater Glasgow Health Board, in a review of its first 10 years, said yesterday that some of the greatest advances had been made in child health. The city's infant mortality rate has fallen from 20 a 1,000 live births to nine and the still birth rate from 12 a 1,000 to 5.5.

Rates for Glasgow are now as low as those for England and Scotland as a whole. Those improvements are attributed to a number of factors, including advances in antenatal screening.

A problem still to overcome is that of low birth weights. In the poorer areas about 12 per cent of babies weigh 2,500 grams (about 5lbs) or less at birth, compared with 4 per cent in the most prosperous parts.

Improvements in adult health are less striking, but life expectancy has increased to some extent for all ages. From early adulthood onwards, however, death rates are higher for Glaswegians than for the population of Scotland as a whole, and up to 50 per cent higher than those of England.

That is true for both sexes, all ages, and for almost all causes of death. The report says that that is all the worse when it is considered that Scotland already has the highest death rate for women, and second highest death rate for men of all industrialized countries.

Barclays Bank Interest Rates.

BASE RATE

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 20th November 1984, their Base Rate will be decreased from 10% to 9 3/4%.

This new rate also applies to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

RATES FOR SAVERS

On Bonus Savings and Payplan Accounts interest paid will be decreased from 8% to 7 3/4% per annum. On ordinary Deposit Accounts interest paid will be decreased from 6 3/4% to 6 1/2% per annum.

BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 34 Lombard St., EC3P 3AH. Reg. No's. 48939, 920880 and 1026161.

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RATES FOR SAVERS

Aids fear halts artificial insemination in two Australian states

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Artificial insemination programmes in two Australian states have been suspended because of the possibility of the Disease Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) being transferred through donated sperm.

The Victorian government has suspended the donor sperm programme at four Melbourne hospitals as part of a number of moves to combat the spread of Aids.

In Adelaide, the Flinders Medical Centre announced that it was halting its artificial insemination by donor programme while investigations were carried out into the risks. The centre uses sperm from unknown donors. Professor Warren Jones, head of the fertility clinic and professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Flinders centre, said the risk of babies contracting the disease appeared to be only theoretical and not very high. In the past three weeks donors had signed forms declaring they were not involved in homosexual relationships.

On Sunday all state health ministers met their federal counterpart in Melbourne and decided to:

- Set up a national Aids task force to keep health ministers up to date on the latest developments in clinical and scientific efforts to combat the disease.
- Mount a \$A1 million (£700,000) national Aids education programme and encourage more women to donate blood.
- Create a national advisory committee with representatives of the states, the Australian Medical Association, the Red Cross, haemophiliacs and the homosexual community.
- Establish a \$A300,000 national reference centre in Melbourne to monitor screening tests. The centre should be fully operational at the end of next year.
- Set up counselling and support services for Aids patients.

Last week it was learnt that three babies in Queensland died after receiving transfusions of blood suspected of being contaminated with the Aids virus. The blood donor was a 27-year-old Brisbane homosexual who had made 15 blood donations to the blood bank since 1981.

The Queensland State Government immediately rushed through legislation providing for jail sentences to two years of \$A10,000 fines for people knowingly donating blood without disclosing they had certain conditions referred to in notices at blood banks.

The Federal Government has already promised to give the Red Cross \$A2.75 million to introduce a screening test when it becomes available, and to ask the United States to rush delivery of its screening equipment.

The National Health and Medical Research Council reported nine confirmed Aids deaths and another three suspected.

Ortega under pressure

Nicaraguan leader has little time to savour triumph

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Reagan receives talks offer

Señor Ortega said he is prepared to meet President Reagan at any time and any place in an effort to reduce the tensions between Nicaragua and the United States.

Nicaragua was not an enemy of the American people or the American President, he was reported as saying that the United States has a mistaken policy towards Nicaragua, and that this demands effort and comprehension by American leaders to find a reasonable, civilized and peaceful solution, not a brutal one.

the cooler head, greater skill in forging consensus, and is held in profound respect at all levels of the revolutionary process.

He is regarded as having passed through a long "test of fire", as one Nicaraguan journalist put it, during the clandestine years of the Sandinista Front. While he may be young for a head of state, his political career goes back to the tender age of 14.

The son of revolutionary parents, Señor Ortega joined the struggle against the Somoza family with his brothers. His younger brother, Camilo, died leading a premature insurrection; his elder brother, Humberto, is Minister of Defence.

The new President first led a dissident student movement before joining the Sandinista Front in 1962. Three years later,

after frequent spells in jail, he was named a member of the Front's directorate for his exceptional leadership abilities.

As commander of the urban resistance, he robbed a bank and once assassinated a notorious torturer. In 1967, aged 22, he was again jailed, this time suffering seven years of torture, isolation and humiliation before his liberation by guerrilla commandos. During his longer imprisonment, he wrote poetry, including one poem entitled "I never saw Managua when Miniskirts were the fashion".

After two years in exile in Cuba, he led various guerrilla fronts until becoming a member of the revolutionary junta after Somoza's fall in 1979. As coordinator of the junta, he has been head of state for protocol purposes, representing his country at the highest international levels in the past five years.

To what extent the Presidency consolidates power in Señor Ortega as head of government and party remains the subject of much speculation. He told *The Times* that the creation of the Presidency "need not affect the collective leadership from the political point of view".

But Vice-President Sergio Ramírez said he believed "the collegiate system" developed over the past five years had suffered from lack of command in moments of difficulty; too many people had participated in an over-elaborate decision-making process. "The elections give us the advantage of being able to concentrate the decisions," he said.

EEC entry to dominate Soares London visit

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

1986, as planned although questions remain. Mrs Thatcher is expected to discuss the results of yesterday's talks with Dr Garrett Fitzgerald, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic and president of the Council of Ministers.

One of the highlights of the visit will be a lunch at Lloyd's with the heads of a large number of Britain's important companies. Dr Soares is expected to make a keynote economic speech, emphasizing the renewed interest in investing in Portugal. His Foreign Minister, Senhor Jaime Gama, said here recently that British investors have shown interest in sugar, copper mining and the paper pulp industry.

There is still concern in some quarters over competition in wine, sardines and tomato paste from Portugal and Spain. Portugal is confident that it will enter the EEC on January 1.

80 killed in Mexican gas blast

Mexico City (AP, Reuters, AFP) - A series of explosions followed by a huge fire at a natural gas processing complex rocked the Mexican capital early yesterday. At least 80 people were killed and more than 300 injured, Señor Alfredo Del Mazo, the state governor, said in a television interview.

The fire sent a pall of smoke more than a mile into the air. The explosions came before dawn and at mid-morning, rescue officials were still evacuating hundreds of residents of nearby areas in Tlalpan, a northeastern suburb of Mexico City, because they feared the flames could set off a huge central storage tank belonging to the state petroleum monopoly Pemex, containing millions of gallons of liquefied gas.

Dozens of ambulances were seen rushing in and out of the area throughout the morning. Four hours later, the area was still ablaze. Visibility was almost nil.

Residents told reporters that a small supermarket was directly behind the area where the first explosion occurred and

that many people were queuing outside it waiting to buy milk when the explosion occurred.

City buses were removed from their regular routes and used to evacuate residents of the affected area. A first aid post was set up at a nearby underground station.

A spokesman for Pemex said a gas truck exploded and the fire spread to the installations of the Unigas company and then to the Pemex installations where gas for two refineries is stored.

A rescue worker said: "There were people coming out of there all ablaze." He said sections of flaming gas pipes rained on buildings - mostly homes - setting them on fire. Witnesses said one big explosion was quickly followed by at least a dozen lesser ones.

Police said the cloud of smoke that hung over the area probably contained gas and further explosions were possible.



Cairo gives Libyan hit list

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Godfrey Shiner, one of four alleged Libyan agents held in connection with a plot to assassinate Mr Abdel-Hamid Blouh, a former Libyan Prime Minister now living in Cairo, emerged from a bank here yesterday with his jacket over his head to avoid the cameras and a barrage of questions.

He was bundled into a small car by Egyptian security men and driven away. According to a source at the bank Mr Shiner had signed a receipt for \$90,000 (£69,000) which had been transferred to him from a branch of the American Express bank in Italy. The money was seized by Egyptian security men.

The story of the Libyan plot to kill Mr Bakoush broke last Friday, when Tripoli radio announced that Mr Bakoush had been "executed" because he had sold his conscience.

However, Mr Bakoush who had indeed dropped out of sight on the day he was supposedly killed, turned up here very much alive on Saturday in the company of Egypt's Interior Minister, Mr Ahmed Rushdy. The minister proceeded to reveal how Egyptian intelligence had learnt of the Libyan plot to kill Mr Bakoush, had passed off some of their officers as would-be killers to Libyan agents who entered the country, and how they faked pictures of Mr Bakoush's "death" which led Libya to believe that the assassination attempt had been successful.

Four men, two of them British, were arrested on Saturday. On Sunday, President Mubarak accused Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, of financing "some sort of organization" to assassinate various world leaders, including Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Moreover, the Egyptian President claimed that evidence obtained pointed to a Libyan involvement in the assassination last month of the Indian Prime Minister.

President Mubarak branded



The four held in Cairo in the murder plot case, (left to right) Anthony Gill, and Godfrey Shiner, both British, Romeo Chakambari and Edgar Cacia of Malta. Below, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya being welcomed to Malta yesterday by Mr Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister

allegations. "The ruling National Democratic Party's newspaper, *Maya*, quoted the Interior Minister, as saying that Libya had planned to hijack a United States-built F16 jet-fighter, as well as to assassinate a number of Egyptian figures and blow up some Egyptian installations.

The strains on an otherwise excellent relationship between France and the US were evident in M Chéysson's barbed remarks when he departed for Washington on Sunday: "There also may be a desire to give us advice indirectly on how to act with the Libyans, as they are acting with Nicaragua."

French officials here made no secret of their belief that the United States has used the affair to try to push France into a more open anti-Gaddafi position. A French embassy source said the possibility of sending French troops back to Chad if the Libyans do not leave remains "open".

M Chéysson's two-day talks here should have been routine, but they have clearly been

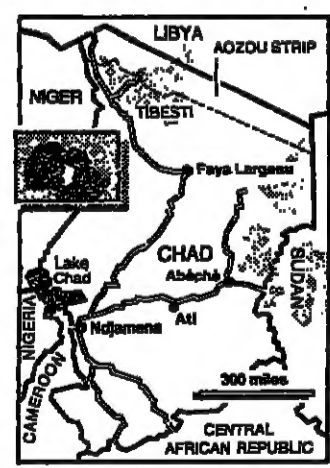
Chad blights Franco-US talks

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

M Claude Chéysson, the French Foreign Minister, began high-level talks with the Reagan Administration here yesterday in a mood of annoyance over Washington's public disclosure that Libya reneged on an agreement with France to withdraw its forces from Chad.

The French believe the disclosure, made by the State Department last Wednesday and based on satellite photographs of Libyan troop movements, unnecessarily embarrassed the Government of President Mitterrand. M Chéysson made the French sentiments clear in separate meetings with vice-president Bush, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

The timing was particularly annoying to the French, coming as it did a day before President Mitterrand met Colonel Gaddafi in Crete to discuss Libya's failure to honour the mutual withdrawal agreement. Until the State Department statement, the French had failed to admit that Libya was not keeping its side of the bargain.



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Chess draw but Karpov must hurry

Moscow (AP) - Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, and Gari Kasparov played to a sixteenth draw, ending the twenty-fifth game of their world title contest after Kasparov had made move 21.

The game opened with the Queen's Gambit declined, and Karpov, who leads 4-0, playing white. The competition resumes tomorrow.

In Salonica, where players from 92 countries began the two-week long Chess Olympiad, it was agreed that Karpov could join in mid-way provided his world title contest finished in time.

He missed the deadline for registration but Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation said Karpov had been sent an invitation. "This is a gesture of friendship to Mr Karpov who has expressed the desire to come," he told Reuters.

Karpov would be allowed to join the Soviet team if he arrived at any time before the last day's play December 4.

The Soviet Union, winner of the 1980 and 1982 Olympiads, remains a strong contender despite the absence of Karpov and Kasparov and the unexpected absence of Mikhail Tal and Vasily Smyslov.

Twenty-fifth game

White Karpov	Black Kasparov
1 K-K3	P-D4
2 P-Q4	P-C3
3 P-K3	P-K3
4 P-K4	P-K3
5 P-K3	P-K3
6 P-K3	P-K3
7 P-K3	P-K3
8 P-K3	P-K3
9 P-K3	P-K3
10 P-K3	P-K3
11 P-K3	P-K3
12 P-K3	P-K3
13 P-K3	P-K3
14 P-K3	P-K3
15 P-K3	P-K3
16 P-K3	P-K3
17 P-K3	P-K3
18 P-K3	P-K3
19 P-K3	P-K3
20 P-K3	P-K3
21 P-K3	P-K3

Draw agreed

5,000 in battle to control Cambodia camp

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

More than 5,000 Vietnamese soldiers and Cambodian guerrillas are engaged in a battle which began early on Sunday for control of one of the largest anti-Vietnamese encampments close to the Thai border. Reports of casualties are confused, but the Thai army spoke of more than 20 guerrillas killed and about 100 wounded.

The civilian population of 21,000 at Nong Chan has scattered. Some are wandering in dangerous no man's land on the border; others have reached emergency refugee camps inside Thailand.

Washington halts drugs project after massacre

Lima (AP) The United States suspended its cocaine eradication programme in Peru after a weekend jungle attack by terrorists killed 19 Peruvians working on the project. Gunmen burst into their camp and shot them while they were sleeping.

A spokesman for the State Department's narcotics assistance unit said the programme was halted temporarily, "until we get a clearer picture" of the massacre.

Briton hurt in Tehran crash

Tehran (Reuters) - Mr Christopher Rundle, diplomat attached to the British interests section of the Swedish Embassy here and his Afghan wife were flown home for medical treatment after a road accident in which two Iranians died.

Friends said that Mrs Rundle received serious head injuries. Two other passengers, Ireland's Charge d'Affaires Mr Niall Holohan and his wife were treated for shock.

Train hold-up

Ajaccio, Corsica (AFP) - Fifteen armed and masked men identifying themselves as Corsican nationalists held up the Ajaccio-Bastia express and distributed pamphlets calling for immediate independence from France. Earlier, bombs exploded at five sites on the outskirts of Bastia.

Chess Games

Salonica (Reuters) - Nearly 800 contestants from 99 countries gathered in this northern Greek city for the twenty-sixth Chess Olympiad. The absence of Anatoly Karpov and Gari Kasparov, battling for the world chess title in Moscow, was expected to boost the other nations' chances.

Picnic attack

Johannesburg (AP) - An unidentified white man tossed a tear gas canister into a group of blacks and whites, including children, who were on a picnic together at a Johannesburg park. Three people were treated in hospital.

Best-looking

New York (AFP) - *The New York Times* is the best-looking newspaper in the United States, a panel of graphics experts has judged. Runners-up were a daily newspaper in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and the two-year-old national daily *USA Today*.

General charged

Jakarta - Lieutenant-General H. R. Dharsono, former Ascan Secretary-General and member of the dissident Group of 50, has been formally charged with subversion. He was the third member of the group to be arrested in three months.

Taiwan's gift

Georgetown, Guyana (AFP) - Taiwan has donated \$30,000 (about £25,000) to St Kitts-Nevis, one of the twelve independent nations in the Caribbean Community, to repair hurricane damage.

Secrets stolen

Utrecht (AP) - Members of an anti-military group stole documents belonging to the Dutch Army counter-intelligence service during a break-in at an army base here. Some were classified as confidential.

Cyclone toll

Delhi (AFP) - The death toll from the cyclone that battered Andhra Pradesh state last week has risen to 243. Millions of pounds worth of crops were damaged.

Drought deaths

Jakarta (Reuters) - Thousands of people are ill from famine-related diseases after a drought that has killed more than 230 people in a remote area of Irian Jaya, in Indonesia.

Minister goes

Islamabad - Mr Mahmood Haroon, Interior Minister of Pakistan since 1978, has been relieved of his post on what an official statement described as personal grounds.

Basque bomb

Bilbao (Reuters) - A bomb exploded in a bar in this Basque city, injuring four people. The Basque separatist organization ETA claimed responsibility.

Mini-camera

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet manufacturers have produced a television camera one-and-a-half times the size of a cigarette packet, Tass reported.

Fatal outing

Bogotá (AFP) - At least 15 pupils were killed and 30 were injured when a bus plunged into a river gorge 50 miles north-east of here. They were on an excursion to celebrate the end of Colombia's school year.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE



Mr Lestario: Under sentence of death

Indonesia: Gatot Lestario

By Caroline Moorehead

Gatot Lestario, a history teacher and former leader of the Indonesian Communist Party in east Java, may be executed soon.

Accused in 1969 of treason, subversion and armed insurgency against the Government, his final appeal to President Suharto has been rejected. The head of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Jakarta has announced that the "sentence could be carried out very soon".

The attempted left-wing army coup in 1965 was blamed on the Communist Party and, though there was never any clear evidence that it was involved, there followed a purge of all left-wing movements, during which about 500,000 people are believed to have been killed.

Mr Lestario, who had been working full-time for the party, went underground and managed to avoid arrest until 1969.

Since then he has been in detention in Pamekasan on Madura, an island off east Java. Mr Lestario's wife, Pudji Aswati, also a teacher, is in detention in Malang, east Java. Their children, Yanthi and Pradono, have been brought up by grandparents.

Although only 10 of those sentenced to death in connexion with the attempted coup are believed to have been killed, there is now considerable anxiety that a wave of executions could start again.

Optimism in Jerusalem over improving relations with Egypt

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The seventh anniversary yesterday of the late President Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem coincided with growing hopes among leading members of the Israeli Government for a thaw in the so-called "cold peace" with Egypt negotiated at Camp David.

The recent softening of Israel's grip over Arabs in the occupied West Bank, its new willingness to evacuate Lebanon and the influence of the US Government are all cited here as reasons for the recent gradual improvement in relations between Cairo and Jerusalem.

In the Egyptian capital Western diplomats have recently noted signs that President Mubarak's Government tempered the shrill anti-Israeli tone of much of the semi-official press. They are also reported to have discerned a measure of willingness to talk with Mr Shimon Peres's national unity Government.

In personal terms, much of the credit is being given to Israel's swashbuckling former Defence Minister, Mr Ezer Weizman. Now Minister without portfolio, Mr Weizman has been working energetically behind the scenes to capitalize on

his own popularity with the Egyptian leadership.

Among plans he is believed to be pursuing is a compromise over the disputed strip of Israeli-held Red Sea coast at Tabas, which would see the stationing there of members of the Sinai-based Multinational Force. Members of the right-wing Likud in the ruling coalition are opposed to such a move, and some have been hinting at pulling out of the Government if it should happen.

Mr Weizman's upbeat approach to Egypt was demonstrated in a recent speech to the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, in which he contradicted the views of the previous government by describing Egypt's return to the Arab world as a positive development.

The former Likud politician, who has emerged as a close confidant of Mr Peres in the field of Arab affairs, has compared the peace process to an armistice — in both cases an all-out assault is needed. He complained angrily that Israel had "halted in the middle".

Mr Weizman, who believes passionately that the 1979 treaty with Egypt is the key to Israel eventually making peace

with the rest of the Arab world, deplored the Israeli tendency to identify peace with softness. He argued that Israel should be seeking new markets across the border in Egypt, not in South America.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Weizman said he would be happy to act as Israel's representative in the series of exchanges of special envoys between Jerusalem and Cairo planned for the coming months, as a run-up to a possible border summit between the Egyptian President and Mr Peres.

Already the Israeli Prime Minister's invitation has been put on one side by President Mubarak who is asking for more time to prepare.

Earlier this month Mr Moshe Sasson, the second Israeli Ambassador to serve in the Egyptian capital, had meetings with Mr Kamel Hassan Ali, the Prime Minister, and Mr Esmat Abdel Meguid, the Foreign Minister — first at such a senior level after months of being virtually cold-shouldered.

The next stage in the process of patching up Israel-Egyptian relations is to be a trip to Jerusalem by an emissary from President Mubarak, but no firm date has yet been set for the visit.



Family portrait: Monaco's royals greeting the crowd from a palace balcony yesterday on the Principality's national day. From left: Prince Rainier, Prince Albert, Princess Stephanie, Princess Caroline and her husband, Stefano Casiraghi, and their child, Andrea.

Party says it will defy apartheid

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The main Opposition party in the white chamber of the South African Parliament, the Progressive Federal Party (PFF), has created a furor within its own ranks by deciding to defy the law and open its doors to members of all races, and by calling for an end to military conscription.

Mr Philip Myburgh, the party's spokesman on defence, handed in his resignation to Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, the party leader, yesterday and Mr Harry Schwarz, another right winger, said he would ask for the holding of a Federal Congress to try to reverse the party's decision.

These were taken last week by the party's Federal Council and, in the case of the move to admit all races, reversed a decision taken only three days earlier by the party's Transvaal Congress to stay within the law until such time as it was repealed. Only a Federal Congress can now overrule the Federal Council.

Racially-mixed parties are banned under the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, which was passed in 1968. Multiracial parties then in existence either disbanded or agreed to submit to the law.

Dr Alex Boraine, the chairman of the PFF's Federal Council, said the party would not go out of its way to recruit blacks because they would be liable to prosecution, but equally it would not reject any who applied for membership simply because of their colour.

The immediate practical effect of the PFF's decision is slight since any mixed-race Coloureds or Indians who joined the party could only run for election to separate Indian and Coloured chambers and could not vote with white members of the party. Africans have no parliamentary representation at all.

It could, however, embarrass the Government, which will either have to turn a blind eye to violation of the law or prosecute offenders.

The Labour Party, the dominant group in the Coloured chamber of Parliament, threatened to breach the law last August by putting up candidates for election to the Indian chamber. The Government objected, and in the end they ran thinly disguised as Independents.

Mintoff-Church deal sends 20,000 back to school

By Our Foreign Staff

Nearly 20,000 Maltese children returned to their classrooms in the island's 72 private schools yesterday after the resolution of a long and bitter dispute between Church and State.

Relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the socialist Government of Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, have never been particularly good. But they reached an all-time low last Easter when Mr Mintoff passed a new law enforcing free education in the private sector.

The Church responded by claiming that this requirement could not be met without financial support from the Government or contributions from parents and congregations.

During the subsequent stalemate, which led to occasional outbreaks of violence, church schools remained closed when they should have reopened after the summer holiday.

Under the terms of the truce negotiated last week, the Church undertook to offer free education for a year while a long-term solution was sought with the authorities. Meanwhile, the Church has reserved the right to seek funds directly from parents of children attending its schools.

It also promised to try to reach agreement with the Government on a common entrance examination for all secondary school pupils at state and private establishments. The agreement was welcomed by church leaders who had challenged the legislation in court as unconstitutional and restrictive to religious freedom and the rights of Catholic parents to send their offspring to the school of their choice.

The case, which had dragged on since August, reached a climax last week when the presiding judge resigned after a censure motion approved by Parliament.

The Government, too, seemed pleased with the outcome. Dr Mifsud Bonnici, Minister of Education, said the news "was one of joy for everyone, including the Government". The provisional pact could "very well become definitive", he told a public meeting.

France stands firm on New Caledonia

Noumea (Reuter, AFP) — France yesterday refused to speed up independence for its Pacific territory of New Caledonia, despite violence by indigenous Melanesians demanding a quick end to rule from Paris.

In a broadcast from France after Sunday's elections in the territory, the Overseas Territories Minister, M. Georges Lemaire, said: "France will not modify its strategy for New Caledonia".

The indigenous Melanesians in New Caledonia make up 43 per cent of the 145,000 population and are outnumbered by French settlers, Polynesians and other groups.

France plans a five-year period of semi-autonomy under the newly-elected assembly, with a referendum in 1989 on independence.

But the Kanak Liberation Front rejects this because, it says, the Kanaks would be outvoted by French settlers and others who want to retain links with Paris.

The new assembly, which will elect its own administration on Thursday, will take over many of the roles now performed by France, including public order.

Final official voting figures, showed there was a 50 per cent turnout among the 80,000 electorate.

Six assembly seats went to the moderate Kanak Socialist Liberation party, which is prepared to negotiate with France for multiracial government. The remaining two seats were won by right-wing parties.

Colonel killed by Tamils

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

Colonel A. Ariyapperuma yesterday became the highest-ranking Sri Lankan army officer to be killed in combat with Tamil separatists when his Jeep was blown up by a landmine at Tellipallai, 13 miles from Jaffna and near where rebels blew up a culvert on Sunday.

Five soldiers with the colonel were seriously injured. Residents of the area said the Army went on the rampage after he was killed and four people were reported shot dead.

In another incident yesterday, five police commandos were seriously injured when bombs were thrown at their vehicle.

The news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, claimed yesterday that Herr Josef Erdl, a liberal Free Democrat, who was Agriculture Minister from 1969 to 1983, was involved in forming a "front" private company in Munich which purported to provide an economic information service for industrial firms.

The company had consultancy contracts with the firms and billed them for services which, *Der Spiegel* said, investigators believe, were never provided. Payments from the firms which they claimed as tax deductible business expenses, went straight into the Bavarian Free Democrat Party (FDP), the magazine added.

Der Spiegel said the transactions, made in the 1970s, came to light when Bonn tax investigators began to examine Flick's financial affairs. The total sum of money involved was known at present only to the Munich public prosecutor, the magazine said, but Flick's

Turkish envoy shot dead by Armenian

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

A Turkish diplomat was shot dead in the centre of Vienna yesterday morning by a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Army.

The diplomat, Mr Evner Ergun, was driving his car slowly along the city's busy Schottengasse when, in full view of early-morning shoppers, a young man described by witnesses as dark-skinned jumped up to the car and fired three shots into the driver's head with an automatic pistol.

Horror-stricken pedestrians watched as the assassin threw a black towel with the letters ARA clearly visible through the window of the car, which slowly crashed into a parked vehicle.

In the ensuing confusion the murderer was seen rushing into a nearby underground station. The Vienna police have begun a systematic search of all houses in the area.

The ARA claimed responsibility for the killing in a call to an American news agency in Vienna, and warned that the Armenians would step up their offensive against "the Turkish oppressors".

Mr Ergun, who was 52, was attached to the United Nations mission in Vienna as deputy director for social development and humanitarian affairs. Unlike several Turkish diplomats in Vienna who are believed to be keeping an eye on Armenians in Austria, there was no evidence that Mr Ergun was involved in such activity.

The killing has deeply worried the Viennese police, who are still searching for clues to the murder of another Turkish diplomat in Vienna, who was

Rajiv says bullets will not break up India

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Comparing his mother to Mahatma Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said in Delhi yesterday that the two leaders had built a strong India which "no bullet can dismantle".

In his first public speech as Prime Minister, he marked the 67th birthday of his mother by declaring it a "National Unity Day". The speech was seen as the opening of the election campaign.

Mr Gandhi said those who had wished India to fall apart in the aftermath of his mother's assassination were being proved wrong. The country demonstrated once again that it could never be weakened whatever the pressures from any quarters.

Speaking from a rostrum silhouetted against Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the British viceroys' lodge, he said the best way to avenge the assassination would be to strengthen the country's unity and integrity.

He said there was a conspiracy behind his mother's assassination and "certain elements in foreign countries were involved. We will see that these forces do not survive within the country," he said. However, he did not blame any foreign country in particular.

Referring to the progress made by India since independence, he said: "We can say with pride that we are independent in all respects. We have to look at the countries in Asia, Africa and America to realize how many of them were democratic."

In his speech lasting only 15 minutes Mr Gandhi reaffirmed his Government's commitment to his mother's policies aimed at alleviating the hardships of the poor.

Opposition parties claimed yesterday that Mr Gandhi's Delhi meeting was a misuse of public funds and orchestrated by the ruling Congress Party to bolster its prospects in next month's national elections. (AP reports.)

Israel wants secure border

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Military delegations from Lebanon and Israel ended a third round of talks yesterday on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon. Negotiations are expected to resume tomorrow.

Brigadier-General Amos Gilboa, head of the Israel defence delegation, said Israel's "overriding concern" about any Lebanese security plan for the occupied southern third of the nation was the protection of its northern border from guerrilla attacks.

But Lieutenant-Colonel Bassam Saad, the Lebanese delegation's spokesman, told reporters at the United Nations-

sponsored meeting in Naqoura, south Lebanon, that his nation had a different goal. "The Lebanese response is that we are not Israel's policemen, and our only objective is to seek peace in south Lebanon and to let the Lebanese civilians feel secure".

A UN statement said the two sides discussed "principles for security arrangements" in South Lebanon and "some positive elements appeared".

Meanwhile, in Beirut, Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim leader, suggested that Lebanon might again suspend its talks with Israel, as it did earlier after Israeli forces arrested four Shia militiamen in the city of Sidon.

He held Israel responsible for the death of Shaikh Abdul-Latif al-Amin, a Shia cleric, who died on Sunday night after being shot last Wednesday on the balcony of his home in the south Lebanon village of Sowa-nah. Mr Berri leads the Shia Arab militia and holds the portfolio of justice and State Minister for south Lebanon.

"Once again, Israel proves to the world that fighting is the only negotiating method to be employed with it," Mr Berri said. "It is notable, *ulemas* (Clerics) and leaders in an attempt to empty the south of its nationalistic and Islamic tendencies".

Secret operation for Marcos reported

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A former Philippine Information Minister said yesterday that President Marcos, who has not been seen in public for six days, secretly underwent major surgery last week.

A senior government official confirmed that Mr Marcos had been taken to hospital but said he was in no danger. The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said Mr Marcos would need a week or two to recover. He did not say if Mr Marcos, who is 67, had been operated on.

The presidential palace at first refused all comment, but

early yesterday evening the Assistant Press Secretary said that Mr Marcos was "well and continues to perform his duties" in the palace.

Mr Marcos spoke on the telephone the previous evening to the Defence and Information Ministers as well as to the acting Armed Forces Chief of Staff, the secretary said. He neither confirmed nor denied reports that the President had undergone surgery. Quoting presidential palace sources, Mr Francisco Tatad, who for 10 years had been the President's information officer, reported that Mr Marcos underwent successful kidney and heart operations last Wednesday.

Writing in his daily column for the influential *Business Day* newspaper, Mr Tatad said that Mr Marcos was admitted to the state-run Kidney Centre of the Philippines at midnight on Tuesday.

Apart from Mrs Imelda Marcos, family members and Mr Marcos's brother, Mr Benjamin Romualdez, "no one in government — notably in the Cabinet — is known to have any access to the President", Mr Tatad wrote.

Damages awarded to KAL

Korean Airlines accepted a public apology and "substantial" damages yesterday over allegations in an international defence journal that flight KAL 007 was on a spying mission when it was shot down by the Russians on August 31 last year with the loss of 269 lives. (The Press Association reports.)

The implication of an article in the bi-monthly *Defence Attache* was that Korean Airlines intentionally took part in an adventure likely to result in disaster, said Mr Robert Webb, for the airline, in the High Court in London.

The article implied that the company was "willing to disregard the welfare and safety of passengers and staff" in the course of a mission carefully and deliberately coordinated with United States intelligence authorities.

The Boeing 747, on a scheduled flight from Alaska to South Korea, was shot down near Sakhalin Island.

Mr James Price, for the defendants, said that an introduction to the *Defence Attache* article had stated that the magazine did not necessarily agree with the author's views.

Transylvania, 2: Romania's minorities

Hobson's choice for marooned Magyars

The position of the Hungarian and German minorities in Transylvania continues to cast a shadow over Romania's relations with Hungary and West Germany. In the second of two articles Richard Bassett reports from Transylvania on the views of some of the members of the minority groups.

In front of the cathedral of Cluj in Transylvania stands an equestrian statue of Matthias Corvinus, Hungary's last national king, who turned Buda into one of the most brilliant Renaissance courts in Europe.

The Romanians make much of the tolerance of this potential rallying point for Magyar irredentism, but they do not usually say that in all Transylvanian schools, Matei Corvin is considered a Romanian, not a Hungarian hero.

Attila, an archetypal Transylvanian, tall, dark and with pointed ears, attends a Hungarian school in the region. Every two weeks he is visited by the local police. Sometimes it is because he has dared to say in class that Matthias Corvinus was a Magyar. Sometimes it is because he has worn clothes of the Hungarian national colours — red, green and white. Invariably, they ask him to romanize his name — difficult matter, for he was called Attila precisely because there is no Romanian equivalent. Other classmates called Sandor have proved less resilient and now answer to the Romanian name of Alexandru.

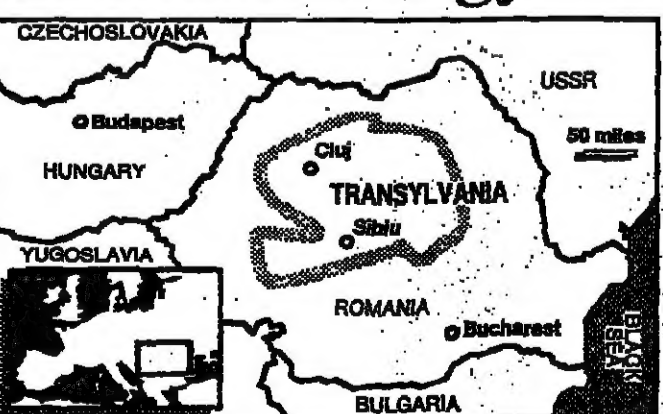
For teenage Hungarians, Magyar names are a stigma. To get a job as a doctor, a university place, some would

say even to find enough food to eat, is all much easier if one's name sounds Romanian. Not surprisingly, many Hungarians feel the only way to survive is to swallow their pride, change their names, join the Communist Party and marry a Romanian. In a country beset by chronic food shortages and where packets of Kent cigarettes have all but replaced official Romanian currency for daily transactions, he who speaks Hungarian is lost.

Some Hungarians escape to Budapest, but there is no automatic right of residence among their kinsmen. One young poet who managed to walk into Hungary earlier this year was politely told she would have to return to Romania. Back in Romania she is visited by Romanian officials who demand — so far without success — that she write Romanian rather than Hungarian poetry.

If members of the Hungarian minority believe themselves to be threatened with relentless assimilation, the Germans see the ultimate object of Romanian policy to be their extinction through emigration.

Although Romania makes it as difficult as possible for the Germans to emigrate, by insisting they repay their entire education costs in Western



currency, they are convinced that Bucharest really wants them to go. Few Saxons believe there will be a German-speaking minority left after 50 years. Already the average age of the congregations in their Lutheran churches is well over 55 and village festivities rarely boast more than a handful of teenagers.

German families make it a priority to ensure their children master correct German in preparation for emigration, because their own twelfth-century dialect is almost incomprehensible in modern Germany. As more and more teachers register for visas to emigrate, their positions are taken by Romanians; thus many so-called German schools no longer teach the language effectively and must be supplemented by classes in the church.

The psychological pressure of President Ceausescu's aggressive

propaganda is less demoralizing for the Germans than for the Hungarians. The well-organized Teutonic communities are spiritually preserved by the playing of Bach chorales and the readings of Martin Luther. Unlike the Hungarians, they have never considered Transylvania to be the sacred repository of their culture.

Although many Germans and Hungarians come to some kind of *modus vivendi* with the Romanians, few imagine that their respective cultures will survive in Transylvania much into the next century.

Assimilation, and gradual emigration — though less obviously cruel than the crude Magyarization which marked Hungary's rule of Transylvania — none the less possess an insidious and relentless intolerance which few would regard as more humane.

Ceausescu ignores shortages

Bucharest (AP) — President Nicolae Ceausescu yesterday defended his crash industrialization programme as he opened the Romanian Communist Party Congress. The scheme is believed to have caused currency shortages and a foreign debt of \$8 billion (\$6.3 billion).

Addressing 3,112 delegates in the Great Hall in Bucharest, President Ceausescu made no mention of food and energy shortages and rationing that have forced Romanians to queue for meat and petrol.

As much as 34 per cent of the country's national income was invested in the 1970s to create an industrial base to the detriment of Romanian consumers, who, official statistics show, are worse off than their neighbours in Eastern Europe.

"If we had not created a powerful material foundation," Mr Ceausescu argued, "we could not have overcome our hardships and world economic crises, and our socialist society could not have further grown."

He defended the centralized economic system. "The congress was expected to give even more power to the President and members of the Ceausescu family."

Mr Ceausescu's wife, Elena, is First Deputy Prime Minister. Two of his brothers are candidates for election to the Central Committee, and the youngest son, Nick, 33, became a Central Committee member in 1982 and Minister of Youth last year.

Rebels claim successes in Panjshir fighting

Islamabad (Reuter) — Fighting between Afghan government guerrilla forces has erupted along much of the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul, the Peshawar-based resistance party, Jamiat-i-Islami, said yesterday.

Quoting a letter from its Panjshir commander, Mr Ahmad Shah Masood, the party said its fighters had repelled government attacks in several side valleys in recent weeks.

The letter, dated last Friday, said guerrillas had shot down seven helicopters and three

jets, killed dozens of communist soldiers and destroyed several tanks in the main valley and two side valleys. Western diplomats here could not independently confirm the reports. They said it appeared that Kabul was trying to gain a firm hold over the Panjshir before winter snows narrowed its options.

The letter did not say whether Soviet forces were among the communist troops fighting the guerrillas. Western diplomats estimate that the Soviet Union has more than 115,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Third Free Democrat linked with Flick

A former Bonn agriculture minister is alleged to have been connected with illegal donations to his party's funds from the Flick group which were "laundered" to save the concern tax payments.

The news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, claimed yesterday that Herr Josef Erdl, a liberal Free Democrat, who was Agriculture Minister from 1969 to 1983, was involved in forming a "front" private company in Munich which purported to provide an economic information service for industrial firms.

The company had consultancy contracts with the firms and billed them for services which, *Der Spiegel* said, investigators believe, were never provided. Payments from the firms which they claimed as tax deductible business expenses, went straight into the Bavarian Free Democrat Party (FDP), the magazine added.

Der Spiegel said the transactions, made in the 1970s, came to light when Bonn tax investigators began to examine Flick's financial affairs. The total sum of money involved was known at present only to the Munich public prosecutor, the magazine said, but Flick's

Munich-based arms firm, Krause-Maffei, had paid the FDP company more than DM100,000 (£27,000).

The popular rightwing daily newspaper, *Bild Zeitung*, said yesterday Herr Erdl had confirmed that the company had collected donations for the Free Democrats, but had added that it was a legitimate method and the company had paid its tax.

Two former Free Democrat economists in Bonn, Herr Hans Friderichs and Otto Graf Lambsdorff, have been charged with corruption in the Flick affair and are awaiting trial.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The second article traces how ripples from the religious revolution in Iran have reached out to embrace and influence the

ives of people in countries thousands of miles from Khomeini's stronghold

The spreading faith

Yesterday's Spectrum dealt with the state of Islamic militancy in Iran and the Arab Middle East, six years after Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution. In this concluding article, based on reports from correspondents in Moscow, Peking, Islamabad,

India, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Manila, Nairobi, Dakar, Ankara, Belgrade, and North Africa, EDWARD MORTIMER traces the outer ripples of the Islamic revolution in lands more than a thousand miles from Mecca.

AFGHANISTAN

Islam in Afghanistan is the common denominator between the highly disparate groups fighting the Soviet invaders and their puppet communist regime. For some groups it is simply traditional, tribal Islam - part of their way of life since time immemorial. But for several of the most effective it is more than that: a positive philosophy, a vision of a better and more just society. This vision is certainly influenced by the wider currents traversing the Islamic world, including the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood in Arab lands and of the Jamaat-i Islami in Pakistan. The direct influence of Iran is not very great, except among some members of the Shiite minority.

SOVIET UNION

In the Soviet Union, Islam is a potential Achilles' heel. Between 40 and 50 million people of Muslim culture inhabit the southern republics of the Union, bordering China, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. Religious observance among them is fragmented or latent and for the moment they are politically docile. But they have a common identity based on the Muslim culture, practices and language (the majority are Turkic-speaking). They undoubtedly regard Russians as alien, and their birth rate is increasing while that of the Russians is falling. So far the impact on them of the Islamic resurgence outside the Soviet borders is impossible for westerners to assess, but anxieties on the subject have occasionally surfaced in the Soviet press.

CHINA

At a conservative estimate, some 10 million people live in Chinese communities traditionally regarded as Muslim. They fall roughly into two groups: the ethnic minorities (mostly Turkic, some Iranian) and the Chinese descendants of Muslim converts. The former are the

more troublesome, especially the Uigur farmers and seminomadic Kazakhs strung out along the long and highly sensitive Soviet border. In the 1950s some 30,000 Kazakhs defected to Soviet Kazakhstan. Until the 1970s, China discouraged the Arabic script and often suppressed Islamic worship but recently mosques have been functioning freely and even collecting rents from their properties. Some Chinese Muslims have been allowed to make pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia and there are no obvious signs of militancy.

PAKISTAN

China's main link with the Islamic world is Pakistan, the only modern state created specifically as a homeland for Muslims and, therefore, one with a specially strong sense of Islamic vocation. Here the drive for an "Islamic order" antedates the Iranian revolution. Under General Zia ul-Haq, who came to power in 1977, Pakistan has been going through an "Islamization" programme of which the latest development was his announcement in August urging Muslims to pray five times a day.

Earlier reforms include the introduction of Islamic taxation, a partly interest-free banking system, publication of an Islamic penal code which includes stoning for adultery and amputation for theft (but so far, unlike in Sudan, none have been carried out), and superior Islamic courts.

In addition the cabinet has approved an Islamic law of evidence, under which women's and non-Muslims' testimony is given less weight than that of Muslim men. A law allowing families to exact vengeance and/or financial compensation for loss of life or limb has also been proposed. This too values non-Muslims and women lower than Muslim men. Stimulated but not satisfied by "Islamization" from above, Islamic militancy in Pakistan is still on the rise.

INDIA

Although Pakistan was set up as a refuge for Indian Muslims, more Muslims now live in India itself - about 90 million out of a total population of 690 million. They have been much influenced by Islamic orthodoxy and pan-Islamic or fundamentalist propaganda. Those who sought to combine Muslim faith with Indian nationalism are being pushed aside, and even the prominent Muslim members of secular parties are finding it difficult not to go along with the communal, revivalist and orthodox leaders.

There is a mushroom growth of Islamic institutions and organizations. Old mosques are renovated, new ones built. Harijans (Hindu untouchables) are systematically converted to Islam. More and more people attend conventions for the propagation of Islam and Muslims involve themselves more in religious controversy.

Remittances from Indian Muslims working in the Gulf have enriched the Muslim community, making it more self-confident, even at times aggressive, and this seems a much more important factor than Iranian influence.

A Hindu backlash, which began after large-scale conversions of Harijans in Tamil Nadu in 1981, has been gaining momentum. Sunni-Shia tensions have also been in evidence, with Shites in Banaras (Benares) recently making an unprecedented demand that Sunni dead should not be buried in "their graveyard".

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, which broke away from Pakistan in 1971, the emphasis was initially on Bengali nationalism more than Islam. But the present ruler, General Ershad, like leaders of other military regimes, has sought to legitimize his power by giving it an Islamic gloss.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia is committed to a policy of gradual Islamization, but is anxious to reassure the non-Muslims who form nearly half the population. The main pressure comes from the theocratically inclined Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PMIP) and from Islamic groups and associ-

ations, most of whose members are well-educated young professionals, often from the best western universities.

Their demands include the extension of Islamic personal law to non-Muslims in such matters as sexual morality. Once again, militancy has been stimulated rather than appeased by such measures as the establishment of an Islamic Bank, a well-organized pilgrimage - fund board and an international Islamic university - all denounced as mere window-dressing.

More and more young men and women, particularly the well-educated, are joining Islamic groups and the PMIP in preference to the main ruling party. The Iranian revolution has had a psychological impact simply by showing that an Islamic revolution can happen in the twentieth century. Most unusually, some 3,000 Muslims in this hitherto exclusively Sunni country are said to have converted to Shiism in the last two years.

BRUNEI

Newly independent Brunei is already an Islamic state. It is modelled on Saudi Arabia - a move adopted with British support, largely to spare the Sultan the need to have any truck with western-style representative government. For the moment, however, the British system of justice is still in use. Islamic law is applied only in personal and family matters, and then not to non-Muslims. Inevitably there is pressure for Koranic courts and punishment.

Growing Islamic militancy, once encouraged by the Sultan as a counterweight to pressure for popular representation, is now becoming an embarrassment, with clear division of opinion between government and governed in assessments of the revolution in Iran.

INDONESIA

Indonesia, with 90 per cent of its 158 million people registered as Muslims, must rank as the largest Muslim nation in the world. Yet the government remains determined not to have an Islamic state. Those who advocate one are promptly jailed.

The official ideology of the state is "Pancasila" (five principles): belief in one God, humanism, democracy,

A Muslim Afghan rebel at evening prayer



TURKEY

Even Turkey, where for nearly half a century secularism has been written into the constitutional principles of the state, is not immune to the Islamic currents of today. Successive Turkish governments, in recent years have been willing to emphasize Turkey's Muslim character in order to improve relations with the Arab world and gain access to its new wealth.

The Islamic summit in Casablanca last January was the first to be attended by a Turkish head of state. The Arabic script (banned since 1928) has reappeared in Istanbul for the benefit of Arab tourists, and two special finance institutions - one headed by the Prime Minister's brother - have been set up largely with Saudi capital.

The brother in question was formerly a leader of the neo-Islamic "National Salvation Party," for which Mr Turgut Ozal himself was an unsuccessful candidate in 1977. Many other former members of that party are now in his ruling Motherland Party, where they appear to be competing for control with the fascists of the former Nationalist Action Party. So far they have succeeded in banning beer advertisements from television, obliging female students to wear knee-length trousers for sporting events, introducing religious classes in secondary schools and establishing Arabic as an option in both high schools and universities.

The number of special high schools to train the state-employed imams has risen since 1960 from 36 to 370, with 180,000 students. Illegal Koran classes outside the official school system are said to be attracting thousands of children. Many of them are run by the growing sect of Suleymani, whose ideology is officially regarded as reactionary and which had some success in infiltrating political parties before the 1980 coup.

A recent study, published in Turkish newspapers, claims there are more Turkish men today with more than one wife than were recorded in the Ottoman Empire.

None of that necessarily means that Turkey is about to become another Iran. Even if there are ex-fundamentalists in the ruling party, their total identification with Mr Ozal's liberal economic philosophy and market-oriented policies seems to preclude a return to the Islamic state.

EUROPE

For centuries Turkey was a European power, and thanks to that there are still substantial Muslim populations in the South-east of Europe.

This is particularly so of Albania, despite all forms of religion being ruthlessly suppressed by the Stalinist regime, and southern Yugoslavia, whose four million Muslims constitute the largest and best organized Muslim community in Europe.

Hundreds of young Yugoslav Muslims, educated over the last decade at Islamic universities abroad, are today inspired by pan-Islamic ideas. Generous sums pour in from both radical and moderate oil-rich countries to assist Islam among the Slavs of Bosnia. According to official figures 800 new mosques have been built in the last 15 years in Bosnia alone. (Other Muslims live in Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia.)

This September a magnificent mosque, half financed by Arab countries, was opened in Zagreb, capital of Croatia and seat of Roman Catholicism. Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia, is one of the most important Muslim centres in Europe.

Compiled by Edward Mortimer and Hazhir Teimourian, Robert Fisk, Alice Brinkley, Richard Owen, David Bonavia, Hassan Akbar, Kader Nasser, M. G. P. Piller, Kate Webb, Keith Dalton, Susan MacDonald, Charles Harrison, Rasit Gurdilek, Dossa Trevisan.

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THAILAND/PHILIPPINES

In Thailand and in the Philippines, non-Muslim governments have had to face Muslim insurgents armed and assisted by Libya since the early 1970s.

In the Philippines this assumed serious proportions after martial law was imposed in 1972. At one point in the mid-1970s, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a secessionist movement, boasted more than 40,000 guerrilla fighters and tied down three quarters of the country's armed forces on Mindanao, the second largest island of the archipelago.

But a six-month truce negotiated in Tripoli in 1976 and a diplomatic offensive in the Middle East to quash charges that President Marcos's government was guilty of genocide policy against the country's 2.5 million Muslims, gradually sapped the revolt's momentum and intensity, and its leadership has split.

LIBYA

In black Africa, as in the Far East, questions about Islamic militancy often elicit a reference to Libya or to its leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

In west Africa especially, the

nationalism and social justice. The government regards this as quite compatible with Islamic belief and the President and Vice-President invariably attend Jakarta's central mosque on Muslim holy days.

But more militant Muslims disagree, regarding Pancasila as an alternative state religion. They are angry that the National Development Party, a grouping of Muslims of different persuasions which has polled between 27 and 19 per cent of the popular vote in the last three general elections, has been forced to pledge allegiance to Pancasila and is now under pressure to drop the Kaaba (central shrine of Islam in Mecca) as its party symbol.

Resentment on this issue boiled over into serious riots, in Jakarta's port area in September. Official reports said nine people were killed and 53 injured, but the real death toll is said to have been anything from 20 to 60.

In fact Gaddafi has always emphasized Arab nationalism more than Islam, modelling himself on Egypt's Nasser. He has always been hostile to the Muslim Brotherhood, which he claims is a tool of colonialism. By espousing a form of socialism and attacking private property he has antagonized the orthodox Muslim scholars.

He has supported Iran since the revolution, but more on anti-imperialist than strictly Islamic grounds. Meanwhile he has reformed the Islamic calendar, proposed textual emendations in the Koran, rejected the Sunna (Tradition) of Muhammad as a basis for legislation, and founded a military academy for girls, from which his own bodyguard is drawn. His backing of revolutionary causes is not confined to Muslim ones: it has included the IRA, American Indians, and the independence of New Caledonia.

WEST AFRICA

In West Africa, Islamic influence generally is increasing steadily as that of the Christian colonial powers wanes. In Mauritania, officially an "Islamic republic" since independence, the current president, Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haïdallah, has pledged to

ensure the enforcement of Sharia law.

Thieves have had their hand cut off, and it is now illegal to sell alcohol to Mauritians. Further south, in Senegal, Mali, and to some extent Gambia, mosques and Koranic schools are proliferating, often financed with Arab money.

Heads of state and Muslim leaders are backed by conservative Arab governments in their campaign to make black Africans true Muslims and eliminate pre-Muslim superstitions. They are competing with underground currents of religious fervour and militancy bred by increasing deprivation and the failure of western values to solve any of the region's problems.

Strong religious organization, reacting against the materialism and moral laxity of the post-independence generation, are capturing the young and moulding them to their Islamic values.

NORTH AFRICA

In the Arab states of North Africa, the exclusively Muslim population is growing at an alarming rate, 60 per cent of it being under 25 years old.

Living so close to Western Europe (where most now have relatives as immigrant workers), the young people of the Maghreb are exposed to the "fall-out" of a western consumer society whose delights are often beyond their means. There may thus be an element of "sour grapes" in their preference for Islamic revivalism.

The revival began before the Iranian revolution and has gained strength since. In Morocco almost every family in the past five years has seen one of its younger members convert to *intepisme* - a conscious and whole-hearted dedication to Islam.

Every secondary school teacher who puts forward progressive notions has to reckon with an active minority in the classroom brandishing the Koran, Islamic militants certainly played a part in the riots last January, which King Hassan blamed on Iranian influence.

These young people are not unthinking. "The Islamic students read more - and not only about Islam", according to a teacher in Casablanca.

moreover... Miles Kingston

and a girl's name, but what sort of difficulties have they had to face? Among others, we talk to Doug Lucie, Trevor Eve and Malcolm Allison, not to mention Susan George and Elizabeth David. Also a historical look-back at Lewis Carroll, Eugene Sue and the founder of *Jane's Fighting Ships*. Plus: "Boy George - what sex does he want to be when he grows up?"

● Problem Corner, with Uncle Nigel. Nigel says: "Men write to me with so many different problems - impotence, infertility, shrinking golf handicap, frustration, inability to get a British Telecom share, and so many more. To them all I say - have a good cry! You'll feel so much better after a flood of tears. Failing that, why not treat yourself to a candlelit dinner, just you by yourself?"

● The Problems of a Working Man. More and more of us find ourselves working in a women-only situation, especially if you're in TV, newspapers or banks. But don't despair - using your masculine wiles, it's quite possible to play the women off against each other, or to arouse their maternal instincts. All you need to know about the Lone Man Syndrome.

Plus a complete new Mills and

Bagg novel, from the military romance people. Arnold was the soup and starter expert in the Army Catering Corps, a man who knew how to make a meal kick off with a bang. Trudi was the Nato expert seconded to tell the British Army about pastries

and puddings. They bated each other at sight. But when Arnold was short of a good opening course for the Nato exercise, Operation Regimental Dinner, Trudi taught him how to make Norwegian Apple Soup, and suddenly his eyes were opened.

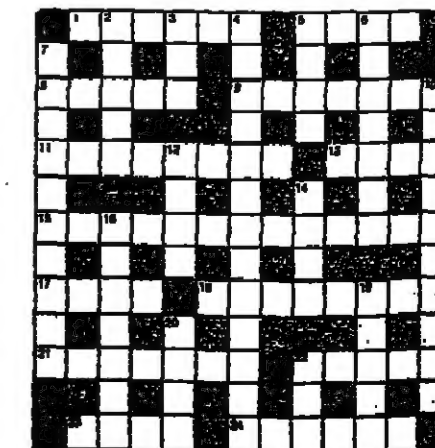
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2 Tease (4)
3 Boisterous (5)
4 Sea ridge (4,3)
11 Unenlightened (8)
13 Lines newspaper (6)
15 Irish Senate (6,7)
17 First man (4)
18 Shadowy region (8)
21 Small amount (7)
22 Fundamental (5)
23 Fine horse (4)
24 Lower value (6)

- DOWN
2 Amalgamation (5)
3 Angler's lure (13)
4 Indifferent (13)
5 Discarded objects (4)
6 East of Urals (7)
10 Superfluous state (10)
12 Speckled horse (4)

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ACROSS: 1 Scoop 4 Lazarus 8 Clear 9 Ennoble 10 Nephew 11 File 13 Squirearchy 17 Read 18 Escalate 19 Marquee 22 Ogles 23 Dolphin 24 Tiber
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- 14 Pakistani language (4)
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19 Foundation (5)
20 Action word (4)
22 Dungsaree top (3)

TUESDAY PAGE

The fine art of talking your way into Oxbridge

Amanda Craig tells how our top two universities choose their students now that greater stress is placed on interviews

"We'll always see the children of an old member, and give them an extra interview," said Dr Peter Lund, admissions tutor for Christ Church, Oxford, sipping a pre-prandial sherry. "We feel it's nice if there's a thread of continuity from one generation to the next."

This was a rare insight into one of the most secretive and complex procedures in England, the Oxbridge admissions system, which gets under way with examinations starting next Monday.

In these egalitarian days entry into Oxford and Cambridge Universities is supposed to be purely meritocratic, and it is only when a college is thought to have accepted the endowment of a new library or fellowship along with the donor's offspring that the scamier side of the whole business is suspected.

Dons claim, of course, that the system by which a candidate is accepted or rejected is as fair and impartial as possible. All papers are marked by two different examiners, and the 17,000 candidates who succeed are interviewed by at least two academics so that, in the words of the admissions tutor at Clare College, Cambridge, "the possibility of peculiar likes and dislikes can't play a part of any great importance."

In the case of the phenomenally bright or less able child, this may be true. However, most candidates fall into the grey area in between, and here is where the particular preferences and prejudices of the dons interviewing you are all-important.

School reports, GCE results and entrance examination marks all play a significant part but above all these the interview is the most crucial: after all, if they accept you they are faced with the prospect of seeing you for an hour at least one week for three years.

This where Oxbridge does become a lottery, simply because the dons are all looking for differing signs of intelligence from candidates, and intelligence, like beauty, can be very much in the eye of the beholder.

One thing is certain - interviews are going to play an increasingly important part in the selection. Oxford, following the decision of its Dover Committee which examined the admissions procedure, is taking only candidates applying in the fourth term of the sixth form from next year because it was felt that the seventh term exam penalized state school entrants.

Cambridge is debating whether to follow suit, fearing that its rival will scoop all the best minds a year before it has had a chance to consider them.

Most dons agreed that the change would throw much more emphasis on the interview as candidates are less prepared for the sort of questions posed by the entrance examination - their minds are less mature, they know less, they lack the extra year that helps the seventh-term applicants to understand what part of their knowledge is even relevant.

Inevitably, the emphasis on discovering the potential of candidates looks likely to fall on those crucial 35 minutes in which they have to impress, cajole and persuade the interviewer that they, rather than the other two competing for every place, deserve to get in. Where candidates are lucky enough to be faced with the kind of intelligence to which their own is naturally attuned, the Oxbridge lottery is more likely to turn out in their favour. On the other hand, they may just be in the right place at the wrong time.

Inevitably, the system can be unfair. Dr Neil Tanner, admissions tutor for Hertford College, Oxford, said: "Sometimes you can bend over backwards to spread the net as wide as possible and wreck an interview because you're so tired. You see 15 to 20 people a day, and by the end your eyes are glazed over, you press the wrong button and they dry up."

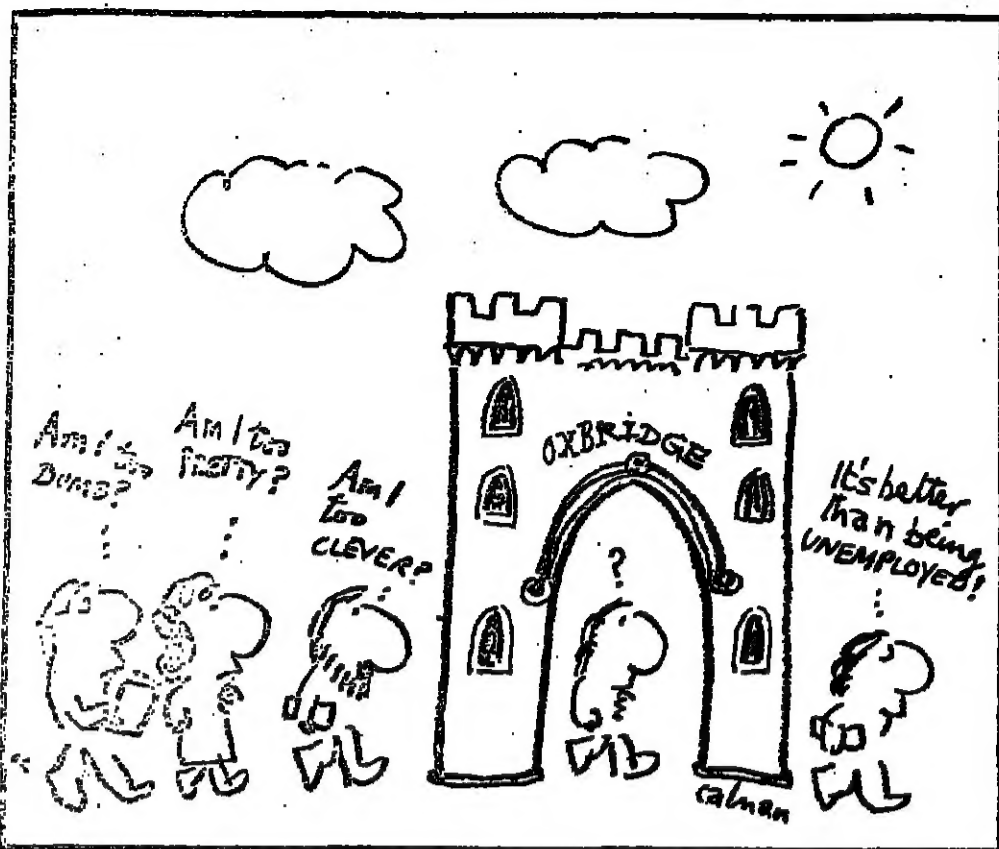
"You can't say, 'That was awful, go back and do it again'. You have to write some interviews off as useless."

This works against the lazy student who relies on being cunning and articulate to impress. This type prefers the dons known as "sparks", who put more emphasis on performance than on exam marks, believing a level of blunt instruments for assessing potential.

The sparks are the patron saints of actors, television producers, used-car salesmen and journalists. They themselves are clever, charming and full of idealism about the lous and charlatans who come their way.

Michael McCrum, Master of Corpus Christi, Cambridge, says: "What we really want are people with intellectual curiosity, people who really want to explore their subject further. We get complaints from schools when we turn down brilliant cricketers."

"But people with intellectual curiosity will be playing cricket, doing drama and writing for their school magazine as well as getting good marks - and this must mean they are more intelligent than those who only have As at A level, because they are putting proportionately less time and energy into getting similar results."



Sparks are fond of big ideas. Their motto is: Only Connect. Sometimes this is interpreted rather too literally where the prettier female undergraduates are concerned. The first question they are likely to ask is what you think of your school; the second, what you have been reading recently. Do not answer, "It's all right, I suppose," or "Can/Canus/George Eliot," unless you feel able to be strikingly original in doing so.

"We're looking for someone with whom in due course we can have an intelligent and informed argument," says Dr Adrian Poole, Senior English Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.

'Part of an interview is not assessment but to fix someone in our minds'

Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. "Schools can't train people for the interchange of equals - they need a consensus of opinion in order to function. But it's the pupils who can think for themselves, not the ones who've been trained to go through the right 'intellectual' hoops that we're interested in."

"If I ask a candidate, 'Don't you think Wordsworth was a lousy poet?' I want him or her to think about it and respond, not sit and look horrified."

The opposite to this sort of don is the "inquisitor". These witty and brilliant characters regard interviews as a test of nerve as much as intelligence. The thing to do is read Boswell's *Life*, so that at least you know what is coming, and not ramble on as with the spark about things you know little about.

Some of the inquisitors, such as Dr Richard Tur, Law Fellow and admissions tutor for Oriel, Oxford, like to recreate the tutorial atmosphere by giving applicants a case report to read and then "grilling them on it".

The worst thing to do in any Oxbridge interview, but particularly when faced with this sort of don, is to prepare a speech. "I once interviewed a boy who wanted to read ancient history," says Dr Hew Strachan, admissions tutor for Corpus Christi, Cambridge. "I asked him what he thought of Thucydides - a fairly predictable question. My God, it was like opening a floodgate! Half an hour later he was still going. I couldn't get him to stop. He talked himself of a place, as far as I was concerned."

"I learnt an awful lot of what his teacher thought, but not one jot of what made him tick, which was what I wanted to know."

Inquisitors are not deliberately unkind - they are simply testing for lucidity of mind and the ability to organize your time on your own, chiefly because it would be tedious and irritating to have to do it for you.

"Most of the disasters we get here are disasters of character," commented Dr Tanner. "We seldom accept someone who lacks the required number of neurons, but we do experience difficulty with those unable to get the problems posed by sex, study and dirty socks into perspective."

"When students come up, they'll be in an environment completely different from anything they are likely to have encountered before, and if we think they won't be able to cope, academically or temperamentally, we'd be doing them no favour to let them in."

The third type, the "scholar", is least likely to spring difficult

questions on you but is the hardest to bamboozle.

Unflinchingly courteous, author of tomes that, once put down are impossible to pick up, the scholar is chiefly to be found in the smaller colleges of architectural distinction. The interview is less important than academic performance: one admitted that, in his opinion, interviews were purely to check a candidate wasn't mad.

Dr Peter Neumann, admissions tutor for Queen's College, Oxford, put it more tactfully: "Part of an interview is not assessment but to fix someone in our minds. We have a very detailed dossier compiled of school reports and examination results, but until we see someone that dossier is not a person."

Scholars are chiefly looking for depth, not breadth of intelligence. This can lead to a great deal of discomfiture on the part of the wretched interviewee: on the other hand, it can produce astonishingly liberal decisions: one student was admitted in 1976 to read English at Trinity, Cambridge, and he had read only D. H. Lawrence and the Bible.

The way you look and behave can also have a positive or detrimental effect, and it is this suspicion which taps into every adolescent angst.

Selling yourself can appear so complicated and delicate that few Oxbridge candidates past and present can have failed to feel a pang of fellow feeling with the hero of Martin Amis's novel, *The Rachel Papers*. After making a folder full of rules on subtle changes to his appearance in order to seem as much like his interviewer as possible, he wonders whether he shouldn't strip off and go in naked as dons are "all supposed to be queer".

Dental charges hit the poor

From David Watson James, Chairman, General British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1.

Teresa Skelly's articles about the NHS dental services ended up with excellent dental health advice. I can almost - but not quite - forgive the errors in her first two reports.

For example, we are said to have too many dentists. But a DHSS report concluded last year "that there was not at present any over-supply of dentists in the UK". What we have is a problem of low attendance, especially among the worse educated and worse off. This is aggravated by severely rising NHS patient charges which bear most heavily on those just above the poverty line.

It is also wrong to say that dentists earn nothing for talking to patients. NHS fees do cover advice and oral hygiene instruction and it is ironic that the upsurge of prolonged scaling treatments is criticized when it provides such opportunities for patient education.

We are accused of tax evasion. I am sure this happens sometimes but it is hard to evade tax if most of one's income comes from official sources. It would require falsification of statutory NHS claim forms, record cards and receipts, as well as the connivance of practice staff. All small businesses handling cash have ways of hiding receipts but I do not believe that dentists' opportunities are significant when - according to a range of independent sources - they depend on the NHS for 90 per cent or so of their income.

Finally, the BDA is criticized

for being "cautious" about capitation payment. The idea of experimenting with capitation payment for children's dentistry was first floated in 1976. After discussions with the DHSS, the BDA was fully prepared to go ahead. The Royal Commission on the NHS also supported the idea. In 1979, indecision at the DHSS delayed the experiment's start until this year but it is going ahead with full cooperation. Indeed, we contributed greatly to the scheme's fundamental design.

Since the start of the NHS there has been a remarkable trend away from acute treatment and towards continuing and preventive care. This is now threatened, not by dentists, but by massive cuts in funding for NHS dental services and Government indifference to the improvements in educational and treatment standards which all branches of the profession are trying to bring about.

The cost of a crown

From Trevor S. Roadley, Secretary, Dental Laboratories Association Limited, 17 Lambourne Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham.

Teresa Skelly claims that her conclusions are based on a nationwide survey. Many of the so-called "tricks of the trade" highlighted in the article I am unable to comment upon, although in my position as Secretary of the Dental Laboratories Association I can categorically dismiss the reference to the laboratory charges for single porcelain jacket crowns.

It is claimed that after settling his laboratory bills the dentist pockets about £8 meaning that the laboratory bill is in the region of £20. Even to have this figure to £15 would still place the laboratory charge some £3 above the highest figure and above the average.

No laboratory in the country could charge a dentist £30 for a porcelain jacket crown to be fitted by the dentist within the health service and hope to receive a single case to complete.

If there is, as is claimed, cheating and fiddling by dentists, then the laboratories suffer the most from the dentist transfer of expenses into income, resulting in them being

paid far below the amount allowed for within the GDS fee scale.

Shifting the blame

From Paul Langmaid, BDS, Cornwall.

I have never, until the features on dentistry appeared, felt that your newspaper would publish a farago of lies, half truths and distortions disguised as a serious attempt to inform its readers. If your reporting of the miners' dispute is as accurate, I can begin to understand the problem that Arthur Scargill is having with the NCB. Perhaps the miners returning to work are only as real as the "North London dentists" who shelter behind the cloak of anonymity.

I believe that you have been a willing participant in the dissemination of misinformation designed to cloud the savage increase in dental charges proposed for next year, adding the Government's attempt to shift blame from the State to the profession.

Your newspaper should be above such behaviour and aim to print only that which is as accurate a picture as possible. The dental features did not reach such a standard: the dental profession as a whole would stand an examination of its integrity better than your reporter would.



Cheapest in Europe

From V. H. Worrall, BDS, Bath.

Your correspondent acknowledges that dentistry under the NHS is the cheapest in Western Europe. She mentions also some of the difficulties facing the profession today.

However, she leaves the reader with the impression that the average dentist is earning vast sums of money by defrauding the Government and patients, and by wholesale tax evasion.

This indeed might be the case if the average dentist had the same moral and ethical values as the average journalist. As it is however, the average dentist's moral standards are the same as the average person in any other responsible job.

Rock-bottom rates of the NHS

From Keith Marshall, BDS, MGDs, RCS(Eng), Kent.

Your series contained the usual journalistic overkill - ambiguous titles, highlighted ambivalent phrases, and no opportunity missed for a bit of innuendo. Nevertheless, it was for the most part true of certain aspects of the dental scene.

A journalist researching such a topic would find it a near-impossible task to be certain that all sources of information, however reputable they might appear, were worthwhile and accurate.

Within the feature on Friday, November 2, the advice given by the dentist running "one of the country's leading preventive practices" was strangely contradictory. When asked whether there was any advantage in having work done privately the dentist replied that there was little point when considering routine work like fillings.

The true concept of prevention is excellence, not just overprescription of fissure sealants, fluoride, etc., to everything that moves, which has

become synonymous with the so-called "preventive" practice. These techniques are of course part of the whole package of preventive dentistry, which has to be prescribed over the whole of the dental disciplines if it is not to fail.

Essentially, though, the skilled, caring dentist will maintain an above average standard of restorative and other work whatever the method of payment. The dentist who has taken the trouble to refine and improve his professional skills, accumulate a large amount of postgraduate experience - and also maybe additional qualifications by further study both in the UK and abroad - will soon become frustrated with the disastrous format of the NHS.

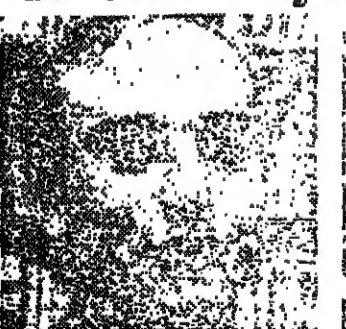
He will be very reluctant to provide advanced diagnostic and treatment skills for the peanuts fees of the NHS! He will expect financial reward for the time needed to apply his knowledge and expertise, and quite rightly so. Herein lies the problem. The NHS pays rock-bottom rates whatever basis for comparison we choose.

That some practitioners provide care that rises above the derisory pay is more worthy of comment than the converse.

The diverse ways the dons see their students



Dr Neil Tanner, Hertford College, Oxford
"You can wreck an interview because you are so tired"



Dr Hew Strachan, Corpus Christi, Cambridge
"One student talked himself out of a place - I learnt nothing about him"



Dr Peter Lund, Christ Church, Oxford
"We see the children of an old member and give them an extra interview"



Dr Adrian Poole, Trinity College, Cambridge
"We want someone with whom we can have an intelligent and informed argument"



Dr Richard Tur, Oriel College, Oxford
"I give applicants a case report to read and then grill them on it"

Authorities on cooking fish are remarkably definite about turbot. This would be fine if they agreed with one another but they do not. What is disputed is not the excellence of a well cooked turbot. No one argues about that; in fact, there is almost as much fancy talk about turbot as there is about salmon or sole.

Calling it "the pike of the sea" is going a little too far for my taste, but it may be a reference to the once popular notion that its taste and texture are improved if the fish is kept in a cool place for a day or two.

Alan Davidson holds turbot in such honour that in *North Atlantic Seafood* he confesses: "It is a venial extravagance to acquire a turbotière (a turbot-shaped fish kettle), as I did even before I owned a frying pan."

André Simon in his *Concise Encyclopedia of Gastronomy* and E. S. Dallas, the Victorian gastronomer who collected Auguste Kettner's recipes in *Kettner's Book of the Table*, both lament the French practice of cutting off the fins which run in a deep drill along both edges of this great fish.

According to Dallas, who has sharp words about recipes which suggest boiling turbot in milk, the fins are the best part of the fish. To agree with that view you need a taste for the gelatinous bits which I cannot share.

However, I am in complete agreement with what Alan Davidson describes as the "Fallacy of the Single Right Choice." It is, he says, a faulty

The great turbot debate



Shona Crawford Poole

promise that there must always be one, and only one, best way of doing anything, even of cooking a fish. "A useful feature of fish," he says, "is that most kinds can be cooked in most ways."

Faced with a 4lb turbot caught off the Cornish coast and no turbotière, a number of choices are possible. To poach the fish whole requires one of those lozenge-shaped fish kettles which has a drainer tray to lift the fish out with. Any improvisation should allow the cooked fish, which will now be fragile, to be transferred to a serving plate. A tray of heavy duty foil, a large sauté pan or roasting tin and an extra

pair of hands to help lift it out and slide the fish on to a plate would do the trick. Alternatively, of course, it can be cooked in the oven with a smaller amount of liquid, or on a bed of vegetables, as Paul Bocuse suggests in *French Home Cooking*. Bocuse cuts the fins off.

But what most people do is to divide the fish into portions before cooking it. Cutlets can be served with the skin still attached. Fillets are best skinned after cooking when the skin comes away very easily and there is less likelihood of the flesh breaking up.

Sauces flavoured with lobster or shrimps were the classic accompaniments to poached turbot devised at a time, no doubt, when the ingredients were a great deal cheaper than they are today. Tastes change, and, expensive apart, I am not sure a lobster sauce has the same appeal now.

But I do think it is almost always worth adding dry white wine and not vinegar to the poaching liquid. Then, when the stock is reduced, adding a little cream and seasoning makes a sauce which is both light and luxurious.

Simpler still, poach the fish in salted water with a slice or two of peeled lemon added and serve it, drained of course, with a scattering of lightly cooked matchstick strips of vegetable - carrot, leek and a little fennel or celery.

The term "boiled fish" sounds quite repulsive and the fish would be too if that was what was actually done to it. Boiling is the last thing to do to it. The gentlest of simmers, with the surface of the liquid barely shuddering, will cook the fish perfectly.

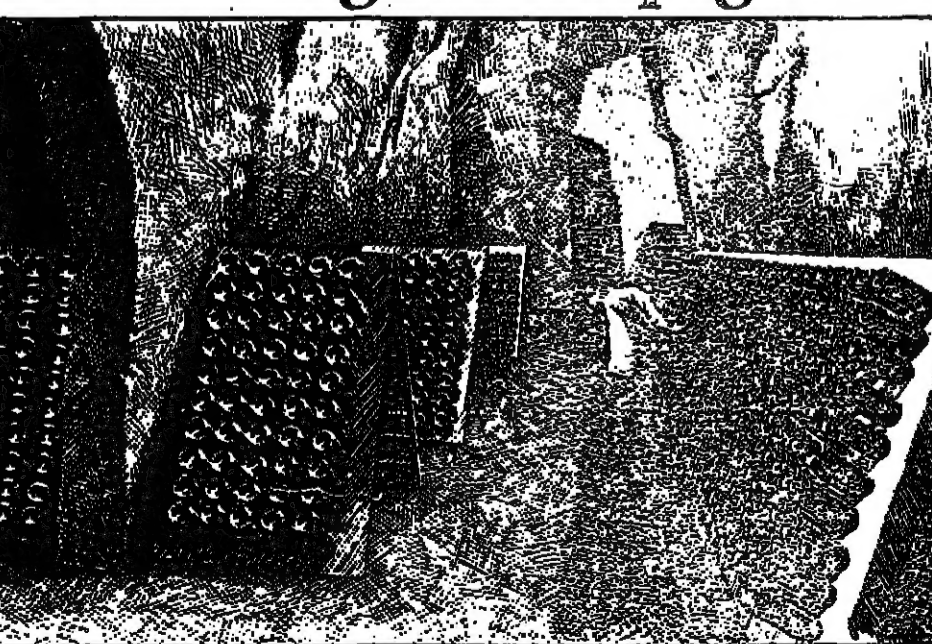
Because turbot is particularly succulent any poached or baked fish that is not eaten hot can be used later in made-up dishes such as fish cakes or this creamy gratin from *Madam Prunier's Fish Cook Book* translated from the French by Ambrose Heath and first published in England in 1938:

"Turbot *crème gratin*. Butter a shallow fireproof dish, border it with duchesse potatoes (potatoes mashed with butter and egg yolks) making a wall about an inch and a half high, and brushing the top with egg. Put in the middle several spoonfuls of *mornay* sauce, add the flaked turbot, which has been warmed up beforehand, in sufficient quantity to come two-thirds of the way up the border of potato. Fill up with *mornay* sauce, sprinkle with grated cheese, and brown in the oven in such a way that the top of the border does get too brown."

An alternative to the cheese-flavoured *mornay* sauce would be a white sauce made with stock in which the fish poached.

● Fashion appears tomorrow and The Times Cook will be on Wednesday next week

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THE TIMES DIARY

Taking a nosedive

Randolph Field's hopes of being granted a Civil Aviation Authority licence for his Highland Express airline have nosedived dramatically. In the Court of Appeal yesterday Fields, a lawyer and co-founder of Virgin Atlantic Airways, was found to have committed a serious contempt of court. As I reported last week, Fields had taken the extraordinary step of obtaining an Anton Piller order enabling the seizure of client papers from barristers who had left his Grays Inn chambers in protest at the way he mixed commercial business with legal practice. Overturning that order yesterday, Lord Justice May and O'Connor said there was no evidence in this case to justify its use against members of the English Bar. By then showing the seized documents to third parties, he was "guilty" of a serious contempt of court. Fields, who offered "abject apologies" and threw himself "at the mercy of the court", was ordered to pay the full costs of this and three previous hearings. Now, having committed a grave offence, he faces possible disbarment. The CAA will not be impressed.

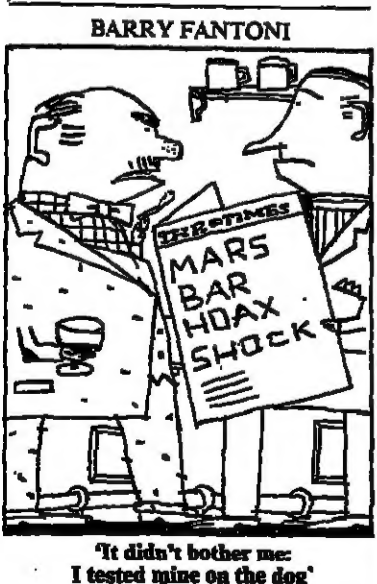
Hear, hear

Francis Pym is to be hauled back for further grilling by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee investigating the Belgrano sinking - the first witness to appear twice. The former foreign secretary will be asked to clarify statements he made during his first hearing in June which have since been challenged by other witnesses. The committee is also summoning its first military witness - Lord Lewin, Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands War - who has said privately that Pym has little understanding of "rules of engagement". Both men, however, have a brief respite. The committee has set aside the Belgrano inquisition for a couple of weeks to investigate government handling of another delicate subject: the Ethiopian famine.

● A non-political joke from County Hall. Ken Livingstone goes into a pub trailing a small, life-like creature on a lead. "What do you call that?" asks the barman. "Tiny," replies Ken. "Because it's my newt." (Try it out loud.)

Week charge

Perhaps Lord Bethell should check his facts before he tears me off a strip. Last week I said the two Russian soldiers who are now back in their homeland paid their rent out of social security. Incorrect says Lord Bethell, the man responsible for bringing them to Britain. "It was a condition of their being allowed into this country in June that all their expenses would be paid out of private funds. The condition, laid down by the Government, was observed". Nothing, he states, was paid by the taxpayer. A further protest reaches me from the soldiers' official sponsors, the European Liaison Group - "They did not live on social funds nor did they pay anything themselves". All expenses, they say, came from private sources and exile groups, but mainly from Lord Bethell. Yesterday I uncovered the records of both Igor Rykhov and Oleg Khan in the DHSS offices in Acton, the district in which they lived. From July 24 until August 24 the soldiers received £24.55 a week each as a personal allowance from supplementary benefit.



It didn't bother me. I tested mine on the dog.

Screen image

Bad news if you are sick of the sight of striking miners on television: they will soon also be at the cinema near you. A doomsday and file picture from Northumbria, South Wales and Kent disgorged from mini-buses yesterday into a former church in Highgate, London, to make a one-minute cinema commercial aimed at raising funds from trendy London filmgoers. The 35mm advert opens in darkness. Gradually points of light appear from the miners' pit lamps, and the men come before the screen relating their tales of hardship. Made by members of the London Film Makers' Co-op - who are donating their union-rate wages to the NUM - the film will not be processed until other unions have paid the laboratory fees. Independent cinemas, including the Phoenix, Scala, Rio and Ritzy, have already agreed to show it free. Seachais, who first exploited the political potential of the big screen for the Tories in 1979, had better watch out.

PHS

Peter Shipley on the delays in public order reform

Why laws are not enough

The Prime Minister brought the issue of public order to the top of the agenda in her Guildhall speech last week. She announced that a five-year-old Home Office review on the subject would be completed by the end of the year; if it were established that the police and the courts did not have all the powers they needed, new measures would be introduced. But even Mrs Thatcher seems less than totally convinced that new measures are necessary.

Even if the review is completed according to the Prime Minister's deadline, and legislative changes are proposed, early action is unlikely. A White Paper is probable, followed by a further period of consultation, and only then by a Bill in the 1985-86 session, assuming, of course, that the miners' strike is over by then.

Part of the Home Office's inability to make up its mind stems from the enormous range of problems which a new Public Order Act would have to address. When Lord Whitelaw initiated the review shortly after the 1979 general election he had in mind the clashes between the National Front and the Anti-Nazi League (with the police in the middle) and the law as it applied to marches, counter-demonstrations and meetings. In 1981 the inner-city riots in Brixton, Toxteth and elsewhere froze the review, pending the outcome of the Scarman Report. Then came the Greenham Common women with the new legal problem of static demonstrations also demonstrated this year by the Libyan embassy siege in April.

The Home Secretary announced at that time that the ill-fated review was nearing completion. Since then, however, the violence associated with the miners' strike has intensified to such a degree

that its implications will now have to be included in the review.

Although pressure of events has helped to delay legislation, there is also deep scepticism about the usefulness of new laws. The legal framework is an important component of maintaining domestic peace, but it is only a part. Ministers must also consider the relationship between the law and police effectiveness, political will, public support and the roots of social and industrial unrest.

It could be argued that the police already have adequate powers in law to deal with most forms of disorder. And since they are set to acquire new powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, together with some added responsibilities, it would be wrong to add to those in any radical or extensive fashion.

What matters more is their capacity to enforce the law, which has changed over the last three years. The 1981 riots exposed inadequacies in their equipment, training and organization in dealing with large-scale disorder. Those shortcomings have been remedied by intense coordination between police forces and the Home Office, and the results have been demonstrated in the way the police have dealt with violence in the miners' strike.

But this new-found efficiency has been bought at a price. However necessary recent innovations in policing styles are, many senior police officers are unwilling to put their men in continental-style helmets and visors, behind shields, manning road-blocks in north country villages at dawn. Such policing has a detrimental effect on relations with the public, beyond those actually involved in the mining dispute.

The case for legislative caution should not become an excuse for inaction. The Home Secretary has for the last year had the Law Commission's report proposing constructive changes in the law on public order which would bring it up to date without becoming draconian. The commission recommended replacing four antiquated common law offences - affray, riot, unlawful assembly and riot - by equivalent modern statutory offences of affray, violent disorder, conduct intended or likely to cause fear or provoke violence and riot. Such descriptions are more likely to be understood and act as a deterrent.

If measures along these lines were enacted the Government would have the basis of a hitherto lacking coherent policy. The Prime Minister would have translated her political will, which no one doubts, into effective action which the police and the courts would be able to uphold.

But the Government would still have to address one remaining critical area: the sources of unrest. This is the supreme political task because it is directly related to the Government's social and economic policies, including unemployment, regional variations in prosperity and the promotion of a national sense of unity and purpose. If ministers fail to come to grips with these problems then the culture of violence will spread among the disaffected. And as Sir Anthony Parsons remarked in his book on Iran, the rivulets of protest can converge in a torrent that sweeps all before it.

The author is a former member of the Downing Street Policy Unit.

David Walker considers the options open to rebel councils



Laurie Spornham/Newsphoto

"The breakdown of civic management" - it is a new phrase, heard recently in one of Whitehall's more reflective corners as the lessons of the Environment Department's six-month battle with Liverpool City Council were pondered.

What it means, emotively, is meals-on-wheels not arriving at old people's homes; computer plugs pulled; pickets round the refuse tips; a breakdown of understanding between local government and the City of London: it means a public order problem.

Could there be such a breakdown next spring as the new apparatus of rates control crashes into the barricades set up by the new municipal left, in the score or so of urban councils where they rule? In Liverpool, not yet to be rate-capped, nothing has changed - neither the budget arithmetic nor the political composition of the council - and there is nothing to prevent a rehearsal of this year's defiance. In Hackney and Southwark the hard left have recently put one of their own into the leader's chair. Mrs Margaret Hodge, soft left masquerading as hard, may soon be supplanted in Islington.

What is certain is that the Government's handling of Liverpool has upset the stakes. For months Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, seemed to vacillate and eventually made a small financial concession in the face of Militant-inspired threats. In the speeches of Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth and close political companion of Ken Livingstone, there is now a "Liverpool option". You push, threaten law-breaking, plead social disadvantage and secure a compromise deal. If Liverpool, why not Lambeth, where deprivation is no less severe than on Merseyside and where memories of the 1981 riots are as sharp?

After Liverpool, municipal breakdown of some sort is likeliest among the 18 councils selected for rate-capping. Of these, Hackney faces the most severe test. Council staff are highly politicized. The local Labour Party has extensive direct control over the council's decision-making. The council's public line is a blanket refusal to comply with the Rates Act.

In descending order of political and financial pressure come Southwark, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Camden and Greenwich - a sweep of inner London to be made, in the left's wilder fantasies, "unworkable". The recipe in the outer London borough of Brent is unending political confusion as control, now Conservative, hangs on a single vote margins.

Lower down is the Greater London Council, to which the Government was remarkably generous in setting a spending limit. Its required saving for 1985-86 is just about the amount by which it is likely to underspend this year.

The crunch comes earliest in the

Inner London Education Authority meeting today to decide a budget for 1985-86. In law what the IEA says about its budget is irrelevant what matters is the decision on its rate. But members are likely to shrink from a vote which would lead to illegal action.

In South Yorkshire, the miners' strike notwithstanding, neither Sheffield City nor the metropolitan county have shown convincing signs of breaking with deep-held traditions of Yorkshire municipal responsibility. Mr David Blunkett, the Sheffield leader, is ambitious and unlikely to be seen to disrupt his intensely proud city.

In Islington - and the other London boroughs - the council (49 Labour, three Social Democrats) has just published a draft 1985-86 budget of £94m. The Government limit is £85.5m. To raise a rate more than needed to meet the Government figure is illegal. That, says Islington, means unacceptable cuts in jobs. Publicly, nothing will happen until late December, possibly January when an official Islington rate limit is announced by Whitehall.

Privately, Islington Labour parties this month are struggling to reach a common line which will then be imposed on the councillors. The options for Islington are:

● To follow the Liverpool line. Islington would make no rate by

March 31. With no income except council rents, Islington faces municipal chaos, with interest payments unpaid, staff wages unpaid and services disrupted - unless the Government steps in with concessions.

● To pursue the Three Noes: the old Militant line. Islington would make no rate or rent increase (beyond an adjustment for inflation), and refuse to cut existing jobs and services.

● To comply with the letter of the Rates Act. Islington would levy the required rate but would, secretly, plan to spend at higher levels. There is no doubt that councillors voting for this policy would fall under the case law which allows the district auditor to arraign them before the courts and seek surcharges and disqualification of those convicted of "wilful misconduct" in office.

● To resign en masse and to conduct "majority opposition" in the council chamber. Readers of *London Labour Briefing*, the new left's journal, are told this month the public might not understand this tactic.

Once Islington has fixed its line (the Liverpool option is favourite) efforts will be made to get councillors to sign a loyalty pledge. In neighbouring Camden two of Labour local government's best and brightest - John Mills and Roy Shaw - are on the point of being required

to resign because they won't swear to act illegally in pursuit of the line.

Rumour says that in Southwark a prearranged scheme for the transfer of assets into the names of spouses has already gone into effect as a hedge against surcharge. But for the majority of about councillors, voting for an illegal strategy, is a Rubicon they will not cross - even if they have to give up seat and party standing.

This means in Haringey, for example, that the hard left would lose its control as Labour councillors sided with Conservatives on those items declared illegal by the borough treasurer. No ostensibly illegal policy is going to get through the IEA or the GLC.

Confrontation next April, even in Hackney, is not certain. Much depends on councillors hanging together, on the willingness of boroughs to adopt a similar line, on the rate determinations made by the Environment Department.

In a controversial open letter to Ken Livingstone, his deputy at the GLC, Mr John McDonnell speaks new left doctrine when he says: "We have effectively used our administration to mobilize, strengthen and increase the confidence of both our party and our class in combating capitalism." The name of the game next spring, he says, is to defeat the Government by defeating rate-capping.

Mr McDonnell's revolutionary boasts are easy to dismiss. But for the Government the prospect remains that, win or lose the coming season's conflict with councils, "civic management" now stands under some considerable threat.

mation on "reproductive performance, growth rate, milk yield, etc." of domestic animals long deceased: another reader notes the imminent publication of "Bygone Quorn in Photographs", and a librarian in Rhyll will take old cafeteria bills off your hands.

The current issue also offers, in addition to such delightful arcana as *Fife's Floating Railway*, and a contentious look at the propriety or otherwise of a Dutch publishing house which all but corners the market in books of old picture postcards, a long essay on the implications of the abolition of the Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils for archive services in those areas.

Elizabeth Berry, archivist to the joint committee of the West Yorkshire Archive Service and a member of the Society of Archivists, urges the Government to reconsider its plans for the metropolitan county record offices "before it is too late". The editors apologize for the excessive length. "We did think about editing it quite severely, but came to the conclusion that the issues involved are too important."

Tony Samstag

Local History 1 and 2. Published by Susan and Robert Howard, 3 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2DS (0602-700369), £1.50 (inc p&g) or £7.50 subscription (six issues). Overseas £19 sterling equivalent.

Philip Whitehead

Learn the facts before you cut

Today the Inner London Education Authority meets to set a rate for 1985-86. If the Government has its way IEA itself will be harried out of existence in that year, to be replaced at unnecessary public expense by a similar body on a new site. The new rate will be set for modest growth in some areas, sensible efficiency savings in others. Its percentage increase will be considerably less than the rate of inflation.

In hard times, that would satisfy me, and most other IEA parents and ratepayers. But it does not please Mr Patrick Jenkin. Under his rate-capping legislation IEA, which does not get a penny piece from him in grant, is supposed to make cuts of £65m. IEA's members, he blusters, will be breaking the law. They will face "surcharge, bankruptcy, disqualification and disgrace".

Now it is true that the loudest sound in the British political arena for some years has been the persistent thud of Mr Jenkin hitting the canvas. But louder yet will be the roar of derision at the ringside from the parents of IEA. I write as one such.

I have a heady eye for extravagance. I do not see on the sodden playing field which my sons' school shares with several others, a polytechnic, and every dog in North London. Nor does it stare me in the face as O-level homework waits on the shared textbook and the harassed teachers' time. Should I be grateful that Mr Jenkin and Sir Keith Joseph, dedicated parents both, are avid to cut?

Do they really know what the IEA does, or do they simply see it as the running dog of the GLC, the body that teases and taunts this Government to fury? One in three of the children in our schools in London have free school meals, one in four comes from a broken home. One in six does not have English as the mother tongue. There are 30 per cent more handicapped children in London than nationally.

They talk glibly of motivation and underachievement. The remarkable Hargreaves Report is the IEA's own searching self-examination of this problem in secondary schools, and how it can be tackled.

So what should go? At our local secondary school the young headmaster has applied to be one of the pilot schools for the Hargreaves study. Do we tell him to forget it, while we praise of underachievement? Or do we stop financing improvements for the small girl with spina bifida, barely ambulant but plucky beyond belief, who wants to attend her local primary school. Are there £65m just begging to be saved in the schools I see? Mr Jenkin cannot have plucked this figure from the air.

Unfortunately, no one seems to agree with him. My elected representa-

tative, not of my persuasion, does not. Nor do the parents or ratepayers of Inner London, according to a MORI poll last month, which showed 78 per cent in opposition to the cuts.

Most of these people, like me, will feel that the IEA is acting perfectly legally today by setting a rate. It then has four months to appeal, again perfectly legally, by the process of derogation to Parliament. The IEA leader, Frances Morrell, met Sir Keith Joseph yesterday to tell him just what the cuts would mean.

We do not know if Sir Keith has actually read the IEA officers' consultation document. We do know that one of his junior ministers, the hapless Robert Dunn, at least got as far as page 37, paragraph 24g, which deals with possible closure of the Merchant Navy College at Greenwich - a potential saving of £300,000. We know because Mr Dunn, under pressure from his constituents, has urged IEA to keep it open. So that's all right then; make it £64,700,000 in cuts.

I would be very happy to make common cause with Mr Dunn. I would like to see the institutions of further and higher education supported by the IEA (at disproportionate cost because of the anomalies of "pooling") kept open, especially when we are calling for an easier return to education. That does not stop at Greenwich, however, with the minister's constituency interest, but £13m further down the line. The IEA is actually spending less of my money on education than I would want, since my taxes go in rate support to other authorities, but not to mine. Mine, says Mr Jenkin, is one of the most "irresponsible" in the country, because it has dared to double its expenditure on education since 1978 while its primary and secondary population has fallen.

Curiously this argument is never used about the police, on whom national expenditure has risen. The differential between the IEA's spending and that of the non-metropolitan counties is indeed 52 per cent. But the differential between spending on the Metropolitan Police and on the non-metropolitan forces is 133 per cent. We never hear ministers declaim about profligate expenditure on policing.

So let us hear the facts, over the next four months, about what the IEA spends and why. The people it serves are deciding on how their own. Mr Jenkin's money is spent. He would do better to listen rather than threaten draconian revenge. Even Draco, as far as can be ascertained, did not draw up his death lists in the dark.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.

Roger Scruton

Campus mobs that must be stopped

Universities since their foundation have played an ambiguous role in society. While devoted to learning, they also became by an inexorable process, centres of power and privilege, integral components of the domestic economy, servants of the civil and military establishments, and the breeding ground of politicians. Their devotion to knowledge is also a devotion to power - to the most adaptable and abundant power that can be imparted easily to those who do not already exist. So inevitably, they have a high political profile, and politicians (whether amateur or professional) may seek to gain control of their operations.

The traditional British approach to the problem of universities can be summed up in a single word: autonomy. Universities are regarded as self-governing charities, devoted to "education, religion, learning and research", controlled by charter and by the general provisions of the law. The state now provides the major part of university funds, but it continues to respect the autonomy of all such institutions, on the wise assumption that learning will not otherwise flourish. The autonomy of universities has been regarded as a necessary safeguard of free and open discussion; and without free discussion the intellect advances only slowly into unfamiliar domains. What, then, should a government do, if it finds that a university is allowing open debate to be stifled within its precincts?

Consider the University of Nottingham. Three times during the past 12 months, the students' Conservative Association has had important meetings destroyed by left-wing thugs, and on no occasion did the authorities prevent the disruption. The South African ambassador was turned back from a hall crowded with jeering and belligerent leftists, when the police had been ordered to conclude that they could not guarantee his safety. Mr Tebbit was growled out by the shrieks of a similar crowd, who also added to their animal noises the occasional egg or other missile. In no case was any student disciplined.

The most recent case, on October 26, is also most clearly indicative of the problem. Mr David Hunt MP had been invited (before becoming junior energy minister) to address the students' Conservative Association. During the week before the meeting the university was flooded with flybites and posters urging that the occasion be disrupted, as a gesture of support for the striking miners. The Labour Club told students to "Give David Hunt, Minister for Coal, a hostile reception", while the Socialist Workers' Students' Society announced more

bluntly: "Target - David Hunt. Minister for Coal".

The officers of the Conservative Association urged the university registrar and chief security officer to take precautions too safeguard the meeting. They were told that the university security personnel were too few to prevent the meeting being disrupted, and that the police could not be relied on to supplement the university's security unless serious disorder occurred.

The students courageously went ahead with their arrangements, and provided stewards to supplement the six university security men at the doors of the hall in which Mr Hunt was scheduled to appear. Shortly before the meeting was due to begin the doors were stormed by about a hundred screaming thugs, who assaulted the security guards to gain access and occupied the platform. They proceeded to unfurl pit banners and to make speeches in support of the NUM. Mr Hunt arrived on the campus, and was told by the authorities that his safety could not be guaranteed.

Mr Hunt gave his talk to a handful of students in the registrar's office, where he was waiting in vain for a meeting hall to be found. Again no disciplinary action was taken against those responsible.

Evidently, universities are in a dilemma: they lack the means to maintain order themselves, and are fearful of summoning the police to maintain order for them. The correct solution is to expel the students who violently disrupt the intellectual life of the university. However many academic authorities would rather allow the silencing of free discussion in politics, than take such a provocative course. But in this way, they allow the politicization of the university and abuse the privilege of autonomy.

What, then, is the remedy? The case of the North London Polytechnic shows how ineffectual civil action can be.

The remedy must therefore lie elsewhere in direct government action. The Government must penalize offending institutions by a reduction in their grant, and the reduction should be severe. The beneficial effect of this would be twofold. First, the university authorities would be provided with what they do not presently have: a motive to abide by the spirit of their charter. Secondly, long-term abuse will lead of its own accord to the bankruptcy and closure of the institution concerned, so depriving the thugs of their field of action.

Only pusillanimity would prevent the adoption of such a remedy, on the other hand it is also pusillanimity that has created the problem. The author is editor of the *Salisbury Review*.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

CALLING ALL SHAREHOLDERS

Many more people are likely to look carefully at the prospectus published for shares in British Telecom this morning than at any other share sale in British history. In part that is simply because British Telecom is, by a wide margin, the biggest stock market flotation ever seen.

The Government and its selling agents were bound to make a serious attempt to tap individual savings as well as big institutional funds and foreign investors to pull together the near £4 billion they hope to raise from BT shares between now and 1986. In this process, however, there is a far greater prize to be won. The issue could bring in enough new stock market investors to achieve a breakthrough towards the Government's long-standing goal of mass share-ownership, property owning-democracy to match that already achieved in house property. In particular, it may at last help to realize the original hope that the state-owned sector of industry would be converted into a new sector, in which millions of ordinary people own a direct stake in basic national assets - a different but equally genuine form of public ownership.

Individual share ownership by millions of people helps to spread the awareness of a direct stake in industry in a way that ownership through pension funds never can. It would make more people aware of the need for profit and productive investment and the perils of inflation and high interest rates. It would also be an aid to stability in the structure of industry. The more shareholders British Telecom can muster, the harder it would

be for a future government to renationalize it, or, incidentally to break the company up if the new supervisory regime proves inadequate to curb monopoly excesses.

Share ownership has become progressively narrower in Britain. Only one in 25 owns shares directly compared with one in five in the United States. That has undoubtedly affected our attitudes to business profit, even though most of those profits accrue to the less rich through pension schemes and insurance policies.

The privatization programme represented a unique opportunity to reverse this trend. Thus far, the Government's half-hearted attempts to bring in new small investors have been embarrassing flops. Many lessons have been learnt and the Government has finally pulled out all the stops to achieve a breakthrough with British Telecom. It is an ideal candidate. Millions of telephone subscribers provided an ideal market. The enormous cost of advertising and special fringe benefits for small shareholders, which would have looked excessive in other privatization issues look insignificant beside the effect of a small movement in stock market prices on the proceeds from selling British Telecom. Moreover, a near-monopoly utility calls out to be widely owned by the public and is a relatively safe business for those new to company investment.

Some of the marketing ploys used to sell the shares seem alien to traditionalists in the City, creating false precedents. But ignorance and fear of City mysteries have created such a

psychological barrier to share ownership that could not easily be breached by conventional means. All the evidence suggests that they have succeeded in creating unprecedented awareness of and interest in the shares.

If millions do buy British Telecom, it will be no more than a start. A share portfolio consisting of only one share is not to be permanently encouraged. It must be seen as part of a continuing process along with participation by employees in the shares of their own company. It should also be seen as an attempt to whet people's appetite for stock market investment as an alternative to interest-bearing deposits at one end of the spectrum and gambling on premium bonds or horse races at the other. A sharp fall in stock market prices over the next year could rapidly spur the experiment.

At the moment, mass share ownership runs against the logic of stock market economics, which have encouraged investors into unit trusts to spread risks and lower costs. The Government has negotiated special low charges for small investors selling British Telecom shares, but the underlying economics will change only when the experiments in electronic share trading from home or High Street start to lower the real costs of small-scale investment. Mass share ownership on any scale will also require a much more radical development of the Government's programme to reform the tax system, which currently channels savings into institutions. But nothing would more encourage small investors than seeing an instant profit on their British Telecom shares.

VALUE FOR MONEY

In the Commons debate about foreign aid on Thursday, Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister of Overseas Development, is expected to announce a Cabinet decision to give formal notice of Britain's withdrawal from Unesco. Britain's departure from Unesco would not take effect for 12 months and whether or not it actually occurs depends on the readiness of that international body to put its house in order. In other words, for the first time in its history, there is some pressure on Unesco to account for itself on pain of losing some of its major contributing nations if it does not do so - an American withdrawal already taking effect next month.

The Unesco exercise may thus provide a useful model for how Britain should apply stricter rules of scrutiny and more realistic demands of accountability to the international bodies which manage so much of the funds devoted to foreign aid. In the early years of this Government public ministerial speeches promised a shift from multilateral to bilateral aid but the exact opposite has occurred. The share of multilateral aid in total British aid increased from about 28 per cent in 1978 to 45 per cent in 1983 and may soon reach 50 per cent. It is curious that MPs of all parties should apply such uncritical criteria to the question of taxpayers' money being spent on aid when they demand the strictest accountability for every aspect of public spending; yet in Thursday's debate there will doubtless be few voices raised on behalf of the taxpayer.

The possibility that Britain's

foreign aid budget might be cut as part of a general Government effort to contain the growth of public spending would always bring out the lobbies in protest, though their clamour should not be confused with the authentic voice of the long-suffering taxpayer. This autumn that clamour has an extra dimension to it caused by the coincidence of a discovery of an Ethiopian famine.

However, the question of long-term foreign aid should not be confused with famine relief. Disaster relief of any kind is a humanitarian operation which, on the evidence, inspires spontaneous action in the West both through privately funded charities of all kinds and through Ministers responding to public demand by taxpayers' money. Disaster relief of this kind should not become a permanent operation, however, without some consideration of the consequences. There is no point in attempting to provide open-ended relief without some evaluation of the local conditions which have contributed to the disaster. Even if those conditions are entirely natural, and not man-made or officially induced to the extent that they are in so much of Africa, the donor would be quite justified to suggest that some adjustment were made in the stricken areas, the better to equip local societies to cope with their environment without permanent recourse to the begging bowl.

Because so much emotion is caused by the spectacle of starving humanity or extreme poverty, the aid debate suffers at

the start from distortion. Such acts of charity, even when they involve public money, legitimately escape political argument, but the same cannot be allowed for long-term transfers of taxpayers' money to Third World governments, either directly or through international organizations for subsequent reallocation by them without any further scrutiny or accountability in London.

Some tighter process of monitoring and evaluation should be restored to this expenditure. Yet most supporters of aid claim a monopoly of compassion and encourage an uncritical approach to the results of aid though it is the results alone which can justify or fail to justify the original transfer. The relevance of aid must include some assessment of the domestic, social and economic policies pursued by the recipients of aid, since they must affect the efficacy of official transfers.

The aid programme, therefore, should be subjected to just as much critical analysis as every other aspect of Government spending. The assumptions behind it are clouded with emotion and rhetoric. The results are at best elusive and at worst downright contradictory. The techniques owe more to the arguments of pressure groups or to diplomatic influence than to the desire to promote the interests and prosperity of the peasant in much of the Third World. There is nothing so sacred about the aid budget that it should avoid the kind of scrutiny without which there is no guarantee that it is value for money.

VOTE COUNT OR COUNTERFEIT?

It is a hallmark of a democratic state that the voting system for the national parliament is uniform throughout the state. Northern Ireland, in the familiar phrase, is an integral part of the United Kingdom. Therefore the rules by which it returns members to Westminster should be the same as the rules that return members from other parts of the kingdom. Does the conclusion admit qualification? Yes, provided there are strong and special reasons for variation, and provided the variation does not touch the franchise or the essence of the voting system.

Two Bills are coming before Parliament this session to which that test has to be applied. The first is already due to be taken in committee on the floor of the House of Commons today. It provides measures and penal sanctions against personation. The malpractice is not unique to Northern Ireland, but it is endemic there. So much so that that it had almost achieved the familiarity of a harmless abuse, each side having the measure of the other, with the personators for the most part robbing only dead or otherwise absent subscribers to the electoral register.

The irruption of Provisional Sinn Féin is held to have altered the picture. It is even officially suggested that as much as 20 per cent of that party's vote is stolen property, and stolen as often as not from people who present

themselves to the polling clerks only to be told that their vote has already been cast. It can be unwise in those parts to kick up a fuss.

The Ulster unionist MPs who are opposing the measure as it stands may be right to be cautious about the full extent of those claims. They are probably right too to be sceptical of the efficacy of the measure and to see in it fertile soil for forms of chicanery yet to be cultivated. They also have telling points to make about the inadequacy of the assortment of official personal papers proposed as means of identification in the polling booth. But on the whole the measure may be expected to do more to purify than muddy elections in Northern Ireland, and since it does not touch the franchise or the essence of the system, there is no objection in principle.

The other Bill on the way will contain nationwide amendments to the electoral law including a provision to extend postal voting to electors who expect to be absent on holiday on polling day. The White Paper that preceded the Bill said that the facility would not be extended to Northern Ireland because of the likelihood of abuse there, and the Bill in its initial form is expected to make that exception.

A voter who plans to be far away from home on a day that turns out to be polling day has

the option, if denied the post, to cancel his arrangements and exercise his right to vote. Nevertheless, his position is so different from that of someone who has the alternative of voting by post as to amount to a disparity of franchise. To withhold from voters in one part of the kingdom a real and important opportunity to vote that is being granted voters in other parts is something against which Parliament should set its face.

There would then be a choice: either to get down to devising the hideously close regulation that would be required for Northern Ireland in order to contain exploitation of the new postal provision to "an acceptable level of abuse"; or to reconsider the case against holiday postal voting, which goes somewhat further than the calculation of differential party advantage.

Postal voting on that scale amounts in effect to a general alternative method of registering one's vote, because of the sheer impracticability of investigation in the time allowed. The House of Commons might care to consider, with more attention than its select committee or the Government has paid to the matter, the scope for electoral malpractice provided by an open general postal alternative - and the unlikelihood in days to come of Northern Ireland's having no imitators in the theory and practice of fraudulent voting.

Research funding to better effect

From Professor J. M. Irvine

Sir, The present crisis in the funding of British scientific research centres on the balance in spending between basic, or curiosity driven, research and strategic, or applications driven, research. The UK public-sector research and development budget is approximately £6.3bn per annum.

As a fraction of our GNP this is in line with the USA, Japan and the rest of Europe. The funds available to the SERC (Science and Engineering Research Council) are less than £300m per annum and almost one third of this is spent on applied research with the result that the UK spends a smaller fraction of its R and D budget on basic research, the seed corn of tomorrow's technologies, than any of its major industrial competitors.

The question should surely be, do we get value for the £63m plus that we spend each year on applied research? A larger fraction of our applied research is defence orientated than in any other country, including the USA and the USSR. This damages our economy in a number of ways: much of our defence research spending is in defence establishments so that the expertise developed there is locked away from the commercial world.

British companies have found it easier to compete for defence contracts than to compete with foreign firms in the market place. Since commercial constraints are relaxed in the development of new technologies for defence, the results are often not suitable for competitive commercial exploitation.

Fifteen years ago the UK community of high-energy particle physicists decided that the future of their subject lay in CERN. They invested all their eggs in that one basket. In recent years that investment has paid off. CERN is now without doubt the most successful high-energy physics laboratory in the world.

The major achievement of the past two years has been a unification of our understanding of electromagnetism and nuclear radioactivity, akin to the achievement of Maxwell and Faraday in unifying the understanding of electric and magnetic phenomena.

When Gladstone asked Faraday what was the use of his research, he replied, "Sir, one day you will be able to tax it."

Yours sincerely,
J. M. IRVINE,
Department of Theoretical Physics,
The School of Mathematics,
The University, Manchester,
November 14.

Religion in Ethiopia

From Mr Hugh Kay

Sir, The front page story by David Cross in *The Times* today (November 15) on the Ethiopian Government's policy towards religion implies that a secret government blueprint for a campaign against Christianity has just been issued.

In fact, however, the document appears to be the one we published in our magazine in September, 1982. It had already been publicized through Freedom House in New York by the Ethiopian Orthodox Archbishop Mathias, formerly of Jerusalem, and had evidently been issued some months earlier.

There is a danger that your story will mislead readers into thinking that the Ethiopian Government is at this very moment building up a campaign to suppress the Ethiopian Orthodox Church or the Coptic community. It would be horrible if this were to affect the intentions of those who would otherwise have given generously to the funds for the relief of Ethiopia's starving people.

In fact, while realizing that the tensions between the Derg and the Christian bodies are endemic, we have no information at the moment about new initiatives against the Ethiopian Orthodox Church or the Coptic community and without specific investigation it is hard to say exactly how far the policy outlined in the secret document has been implemented.

Even if all the implications of your story were true, however, it should have no bearing whatsoever on the need to relieve the victims of drought and famine.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH KAY, Editor,
114 Mount Street, W1.

Helping hand

From Cordelia Vanneck

Sir, Some people in public life are noted for the move-along hand-shake. This constitutes grasping the proffered hand of the arriving guest at a two o'clock angle and forcing it round to 10 o'clock or vice versa which can be helpful to the shy, useful in managing those who want to gossip, but unwelcome to the ordinary citizen. Is there a satisfactory alternative without slowing things down too much?

Yours faithfully,
CORDELIA VANNECK,
36 Meadow Road, SW5,
November 12.

Theatre at risk

From the Chairman of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, The Arts Council is keen to help the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre develop its work. We have in fact already given them a supplementary £100,000 this year and a conditional increase of £100,000 next year, despite great difficulties, the Greater Manchester Council, with whom we have been working, has also given a supplementary grant this year of £100,000.

This is an increase in our grant of 50 per cent over a three-year period and promises public funding of £1.1m for a 750-seat theatre in 1985-86. That is very high funding, as

Uneasy linkage of Church and miners

From Mr Bruce Hargreaves

Sir, I sympathise with those members of the clergy who have become involved with the present industrial conflict. There must be considerable dilemma, especially for those members from the North and Midlands who are constantly confronted by the distress which threatened closure of pits causes, but who nevertheless fundamentally acknowledge the need to preserve society and its law and order.

Recent overtures to the Church of England for open support by those who may be responsible for civil unrest put me unhappily in mind of relationships between the religious orders and revolutionaries at the time of the French Revolution.

I do not support the suggestion, as some of the strike in the mining industry has, as a chosen objective, social or political revolution. I do not, indeed, expect a successful Mr Scargill to imprison the archbishops in pinnacles at Rochefort or to deport them to latter-day French Guiana.

I do, however, feel that though worthy intentions may exist on both sides, the risk to the reputation, indeed to the credibility of the Church of England, is so great that the miners' request should be rejected. Whilst I am suspicious that, in the nature of their calling, the clergy may not be capable of truly perceiving the hollowness or duplicity which may lie in the call to arms, it is not this line of thought which preoccupies me.

Rather I look to the time when the alliance ceases, perhaps because

the objectives of the lay organisations have been attained, or more especially have not been achieved. In that event the Church would lie wounded, the subject of critical exposure and this at a time when unity, not division, should be paramount.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE HARGREAVES,
Church Villa,
Morden,
Wareham, Dorset.

From Mr Ian McKittrick

Sir, The Government should not underestimate the strength of the bond between the bishops and the striking miners. Both groups have much in common, not least in the loss of morale each has suffered as a result of the decline in public demand for the product of its labours, religion and coal respectively.

This alliance could provide the solution to the problems of the coal industry if only the Government were willing to back it. The coalfields should immediately be handed over to the bishops, Durham to Durham, South Yorkshire to Sheffield, Kent to Canterbury and so on; thus, at a stroke, placating the miners, providing work for under-employed members of the episcopate, providing financial support for the Church of England, and, perhaps, ensuring for the rest of us a little respite from rhetoric.

I am, yours faithfully,
IAN MCKITTRICK,
68 Magdalen Road,
Exeter, Devon.

Leaving Unesco

From Dr D. R. Stoddart

Sir, You can scarcely be proud of Professor Gould's support (November 10) for your leader of November 5 advocating British withdrawal from Unesco. Professor Gould tells us of his association with the UK national Commission for Unesco; his letter reveals that he is incapable of appreciating the challenge and opportunities that the institution presents.

Why on earth not in an international organisation celebrate Lenin's birthday? Tragicomic (as Professor Gould asserts)? Grotesque? Sinister tomfoolery? Whatever Professor Gould's private political views, Lenin has affected the educational, scientific and social life of something like 10⁹ more people than have ever heard of Professor Gould - and in the last analysis probably for the better.

The fact that we have people in public life, involved in giving advice about Unesco, who are utterly out of tune with what the Third World so desperately needs and which Unesco - temporary difficulties to one side - is uniquely fitted to provide is perhaps one reason why her

Majesty's Government now seems on the verge of one of its most lamentable and demeaning decisions.

Unesco has just published a monograph on how to study mangrove swamps for the benefit of those countries whose shores are fringed by them. It is what the institution is all about, why it matters so much, and why it requires our support. Sadly, I suspect that while Lenin himself would have approved wholeheartedly of mangrove research, the Goulds among us lack the vision to recognise the real issue when they see it.

Let us hope that ministers can rise above the self-interested parochialism of much of the correspondence on this subject in your columns and recognise with Professor Skilleck (November 8) what the important issues are.

Darwin, Freud, Marx, Mao - and Lenin: who on earth else has set the frame of our twentieth-century lives?

Yours faithfully,
D. R. STODDART,
2 Chesterton Hall Crescent,
Cambridge,
November 15.

The voice of faith

From Canon Alan Wilkinson

Sir, Your Religious Affairs Correspondent (November 5) points out that modern English does not seem to possess the resources to express what the churches wish to say when they revise their liturgies. The result is often banal or hollowly rhetorical.

The problem seems to have been largely created during the First World War, when politicians and churchmen used religious imagery to promote the national cause. After the war, disillusionment with the war discredited the language with which it had been promoted.

A character in Ernest Hemingway's novel, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929) remarked:

"I was always embarrassed by the words sacred, glorious, and sacrifice. I had seen nothing sacred, and the things that were glorious had no glory and the sacrifices were like the stockyards at Chicago..."

Yet the poetry of (say) T. S. Eliot, R. S. Thomas and C. H. Sisson indicates that genuinely modern English is available for the expression of religious themes. But the faith which such poets convey is expressed obliquely, wryly and with a full awareness of the counter-statements which can be made against it.

Genuine faith, they imply, has to be struggled for and cannot be simply affirmed in a loud, confident voice. After Auschwitz and Hiroshima, it is surely right that the language of faith should be halting.

Liturgical revisers would be well

advised to study not only modern poetry but also the Psalms. The Psalms often sound more genuinely modern than the *Alternative Service Book*, for the psalmists' faith included, and did not evade, a full recognition of the many aspects of life which make faith difficult.

Clouds and darkness are round about him (Psalm 97).

Yours sincerely,
ALAN WILKINSON,
The Vicarage,
Darley,
North Yorkshire,
November 5.

Nicaraguan conflict

From Mr Herb Greer

Sir, Lord Kennet (November 12) fails to mention that the Sandinistas received more American aid than did Somoza during the entire period of his rule. It was their reversion to totalitarian politics, suppression of opposition, and interference with other countries in the region that caused this aid to be stopped, not as some British journalists like to suggest - a simple change in the American Presidency.

This reversion, be it noted, took place when the Americans were helping the Sandinistas.

Yours,
HERB GREER,
124 Fog Lane,
Didbury,
Manchester,
November 12.

supposed saving was in large measure illusory.

Moreover, in attacking one of this country's greatest glories, the Chancellor is not doing so because we cannot afford it. He is doing so in order to finance a tax cut whose effects, for most of us, will be marginal at best.

Eating the seed corn may be necessary in famine years, but doing so for the sake of a marginal increase in current consumption would appear to be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,
CONRAD RUSSELL,
78 Jessell House,
Judd Street, WC1,
November 13.

'Indecent' books seized in raids

From the General Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties and others

Sir, Customs and Excise have seized biographies, political and social works, drama and contemporary fiction from a wide range of bookshops and voluntary organisations serving the lesbian and gay communities. These include a fourteenth-century devotional book written by Christine De Pizan, a nun, and represents a notable example of recovered feminist writing. The Pizan work, together with many other seized titles, is already published in this country and the rest are widely circulated in North America and in Europe.

How can it be that a work that is lawfully published in this country and is available in libraries and university reading lists can still be subject to seizure by Customs officials? The answer is that Customs police have wide-ranging discretionary powers, and are able to prevent the importation of materials which in their view are "indecent".

"Indecent" is a widely drawn and vague term, to be found in the 1876 Customs & Excise Act. It can be interpreted as "offensive", contrary to morals and the like. It is a far less strict standard than pertains under the Obscene Publications Act, which is the law which governs literature published in this country; that Act uses the standard "obscenity", and does not ban "indecent" material.

This is censorship of the kind we thought we in Britain had left behind and takes us back to the position where books of high literary quality are seizable because they offend some portion of the community.

The series of raids in all parts of the country on lesbian and gay establishments poses the question whether an already insular minority community can be left to live their lives and read the books they choose as they wish and without interference. The books have been subject to censorship and in their way are no more offensive than anything that is already fully accepted in our society in the heterosexual context.

If prescriptions are useful we would suggest that Customs law be brought into line with the law pertaining to books in this country that only books which are obscene and without any redeeming social and literary value should be subject to censorship. In the meantime the directors of Gay the Word bookshop and many other small book-sellers face the unconscionable, but real and imminent, threat of criminal prosecution. Surely we cannot allow them to face imprisonment for society's intolerance?

Yours,
LARRY GOSTIN (General Secretary, NCCL),
DAVID WHITTAKER,
FRANK DELANEY,
PHILIP ATTENBOROUGH,
GEORGE MARY,
JOHN GOLDSMITH,
MARK LE FANU,
GRANT PAYTON,
ANGELA CARTER,
c/o National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
November 15.

Reversing alarms

From Mr C. P. Hanson-Abbott

Sir, We are the originator of the reverse warning equipment referred to in your report of November 12, and nearly all the "illegal" alarms to which you refer are ours.

The Transport and Road Research Laboratory today confirmed that your quoted statistics for injuries caused by reversing (including fatalities) refer only to accidents on the public road. These account for a mere 10 per cent or so of the total.

The other 90 per cent occur off highway, where reversing happens much more frequently and people are less alert.

Car, bus and lorry parks, workshops, docks, warehouses, loading bays, private roads and driveways are the high-risk areas. Extrapolated, this gives a figure of around 30,000 serious and/or fatal reversing accidents a year.

The Department of Transport's contention that under current legislation reversing beepers are illegal has never been tested in the courts. About 150,000 of these devices are now in service.

The majority of these are on Government refuse vehicles and buses, which thus comply with section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, which requires provision of a safe working environment. It is this anomaly that has caused the department at long last to "legalize" their use.

Yours faithfully,
C. P. HANSON-ABBOTT,
Managing Director,
Brigade Electronics Ltd.,
Brigade Works,
Brigade Street,
Blackheath Village, SE3,
November 12.

Paper pounds

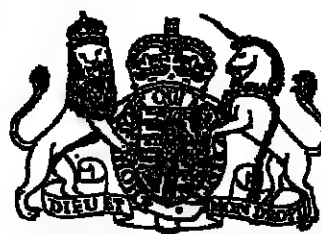
From Mr Peter Burton

Sir, Is it significant for science in this country in its present underfunded state that the Government has chosen to abolish the £1 note, which bears the portrait of Sir Isaac Newton, "the father of British science"?

I remain, yours faithfully,
PETER BURTON,
1 Kingfield Court,
21 Kingfield Road,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

From Mr John Cadell

Sir, At least with a metal pound we can hear it falling. Yours faithfully,
JOHN CADELL,
1A Holly Terrace,
Highgate West Hill, N6.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 19: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Chancellor of the University of London, this morning attended a Service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the launching of the new Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School. Her Royal Highness was received upon arrival by the Dean of Westminster (the Very Reverend Dr Edward F Carpenter).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this afternoon received a cheque on behalf of the Fund, from the National Westminster Bank from the proceeds of the sale of "Brush Out with Greasy", at the National Westminster Tower, Old Broad Street, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, President British Olympic Association, this evening attended a reception given by the National Olympic Committee at the Waldorf Hotel, London WC2.

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, accompanied by The Prince and Princess of Wales, was present this evening at a Variety performance given at the Victoria Palace in aid of the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund.

The Lady Grimthorpe and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

Luncheon

Fuelers' Company
The Fuelers' Company held its first luncheon since being granted licence yesterday at Fishmongers' Hall, The Master, Mr Charles St. George, Mr Clarke, presided and the principal guest and speaker was Rear-Admiral J. S. Grove, Chief Naval Engineer Officer. Other guests included Sir Colin Cole, Master of the Arbitrators' Company, Alderman F. McWilliams, and the Deputy Master of the Lightermen's Company, Mr K. W. H. Last.

Dinners

Garwick Club
Members of the Garwick Club held their annual dinner on Sunday, Lord Melville of Motest proposed the toast of the guest, Mr Frederick Lloyd, and Mr Norman R. Wilcox presided.

National Sporting Club
The National Sporting Club held a boxing dinner at Grosvenor House last night at which Mr John Francombe was the guest of honour. Major-General Sir James d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Bt, was in the chair and the other speakers were Mr Peter O'Sullivan and Mr Kenneth Wolstenholme, secretary of the club.

Institute of Measurement and Control
The President of the Institute of Measurement and Control, Mr A. E. Parritt, was host at a dinner held yesterday at the Naval and Military Club. The principal guest was Sir

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Gala performance given by the Royal Ballet School and Eton College Orchestra at the Royal Theatre, Eton College.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 19: The Duke of Gloucester today opened the Carlisle City Centre Redevelopment, Carlisle.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
November 19: The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, this evening attended a concert in aid of the Voice of the Cathedral Appeal at the State Apartment, St James's Palace. Miss Sarah Partridge was in attendance.

Tomorrow is the thirty-seventh anniversary of the marriage of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. A memorial service for Charles Livingston will be held today at 4.30pm in Harrow School chapel. A memorial service for the Hon Mrs Patrick Wills will be held today at noon at International Students House, Great Portland Street. A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Francis Spencer Portal, Bt, will be held at St Mary's Church, Overton, Hampshire, on Saturday, December 1, 1984, at 2.30pm.

Andrew Huxley, OM, who had earlier delivered the Thomson Lecture on "Measurement in the Biological Sciences" at the Royal Institution, other guests included Professor H. Nicholson, Professor D. E. N. Davies and Mr K. Carrington. The evening was presided over by Sir Harold Harley Medal, the Calendar Medal and the Alec Hough-Grobby Memorial Award.

Wolfe Society
The Wolfe Society's annual dinner, to mark the 25th anniversary of the birth of Major-General James Wolfe, was held in Westminster last night. Mr J. St. A. Wards presided and General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley was the guest of honour.

Association of British Chambers of Commerce
Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, was the guest at a dinner of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce held at the Café Royal yesterday. Mr R. T. S. Macpherson, chairman of the committee, presided.

Lecture

Lectured Society of Valuers and Auctioneers
Sir Donald Tebbitt, Director General of the British Property Federation, was the guest speaker at the fifth annual lecture at the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers last night. His topic was "Reality and unreality in real estate". Mr John M. Phillips, president, presided.

Marriages

Dr E. Pleydell-Bouverie and Dr N. Wood
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 10, at St Matthew's Church, Brighton, of Dr Edward Pleydell-Bouverie, elder son of the Hon Reuben and Mrs Pleydell-Bouverie, of The Dover House, Slindon, Sussex, and Dr Nicholas Wood, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Wood, of Blackheath, London. The Rev Barry Thorley officiated. The honeymoon will be spent in Australia.

Mr M. C. B. Douglas and Mrs S. Saeed
The marriage took place on November 16 in Maidstone between Mr Michael Charles Bingham Douglas and Mrs Sandra Saeed.

Mr J. M. Holt and Mrs E. C. Newell
The marriage took place in Alderbury, on October 22 of Mr Robert Gillott and Mrs Kathleen Carrus.

Mr J. M. Holt and Mrs E. C. Newell
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 17, at Emmanuel Parish Church, Plymouth, between Mr Jeremy Holt, only son of Mr and Mrs J. M. Holt, of Bridport, Dorset, and Dr Antonia Newell, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs P. O. P. Newell, of Plymouth, Devon.

Mr E. Lesley and Mrs S. Sinclair
The marriage took place quietly on November 16, 1984 at the Unitarian Chapel, Hampstead, of Mr Earl Lesley, of Katoch, Washington, United States, and Mrs Serena Sinclair, of Hampstead, London.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr D. G. Knowles and Miss A. S. Pennington
The engagement is announced between David Goodall, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Knowles, of Broadway Farm, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Alison Sheelagh, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. J. Pennington, of St John's Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Birthdays today

Mr M. C. Alexander, 64; Mr Denis Allport, 62; Mr P. K. Archer, QC, MP, 58; the Hon Hugh Astbury, MP, 64; Mr Aubrey Jones, 73; Mr Bobby Locke, 67; Sir Rex Niven, 86; Sir David Price, MP, 60; Mr A. M. Rees, 72; Professor Sir Austin Robinson, 87; Sir Reginald Sharpe, QC, 86; Sir William Walker, 79; Viscount Ward of Witley, 77; Sir Edgar Williams, 72.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs James Taylor-Dickson was christened Thomas James Robert on Saturday, October 13, at St Dionis, Parson's Green, SW6, by the Rev John Fowler. The godparents are Mr Crispin Hay, Mr Richard Noel, Mr Donald Ogby Watson, Mrs Felicity Guinness, Mrs Milnes Coates and Mrs Michael Henigan.



Mrs Sheila Beverley, of the Poulton-Je-Fyde branch of the National Westminster Bank in Lancashire, meeting Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, at the bank's headquarters in the City yesterday. Mrs Beverley's book of recipes raised £4,500 for the fund and the bank handed over a £10,000 cheque to the Princess (Photograph: John Manning).

£600,000 Xerox gift for Cambridge

More than £600,000 of computer equipment is being given to Cambridge University's computer laboratory by Rank Xerox, it was announced yesterday.

The grant, one of 13 being made as part of a £10m international programme, is the only one the American company is giving to a British university.

It will provide Cambridge's computer laboratory with the Xerox Development Environment, an advanced software and hardware system.

Latest wills

Sir Harold Grime, of Poulton-Je-Fyde, Lancashire, editor-in-chief of the *Lancashire Evening Gazette*, left estate valued at £650,194 net.

Mr David Christopher York, of Hammersmith, London, left estate valued at £446,266 net. After bequests he left the residue equally between the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Cleary, Mr Michael Joseph, of Dore, Sheffield, £833,232.

Wilson, Mr Rueben, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, £618,113.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Professor John C. Brocklehurst to be President of the British Geriatrics Society, in succession to Dr R. E. Irvine.

University news

Edinburgh
Dr Lyn Carey Thomas has been appointed to the chair of management science from a date to be arranged. He succeeds Professor H. P. Williams, the first holder of the chair, who moved to take up the chair of mathematics at Southampton University.

London
King's College
Coordinating Research Council, £39,287 to Dr R. W. G. Wainwright for research into high resolution microscopy of living tissue. £155,200 to Dr R. W. G. Wainwright for research into the mechanism of the action of the hormone insulin. £155,200 to Dr R. W. G. Wainwright for research into the mechanism of the action of the hormone insulin.

Warwick
Dr Christopher Voss has been appointed to the chair of Professor of manufacturing policy and strategy from January 1, 1985.

Stirling
Mr Charles Rattray and Dr David Budge, of the department of computing science, have been awarded £70,250 plus two ICL Perq computer systems by the Science and Engineering Research Council for a project forming part of the Government's Alvey programme in software engineering.

The aim of the research is to develop an intelligent knowledge-based system for constructing computer programs of good quality from high-level descriptions of the required software.

Open
Mr Andrew Blowers, senior lecturer in geography since 1976, has been appointed to a new single tenure chair in social sciences (planning).

Dr M. Susan Hurley has been appointed director of the Open University's north regional office, which covers OU activities in Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear. She succeeds Mr Peter Miller.

Grant
The OU and British Telecom have jointly been awarded a £300,000 grant from the Alvey Directorate to develop a range of expert systems, computer software that will help BT technicians diagnose hard-to-find faults in telecommunications systems.

Trent Polytechnic

The following name was omitted from the list of first-class honours degrees at Trent Polytechnic: Miss Susan Anthony (BA, business studies).

Sir Anthony Berry

A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Hon Sir Anthony Berry, MP, will be held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, at noon on Wednesday, December 27. Applications for tickets should be made in writing to the Chapter Clerk, 20 Deans Yard, London SW1, by Friday, November 23. Tickets will be posted on November 28. Please send an addressed envelope.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
The Hon William Douglas-Home was the guest speaker at a meeting of the discussion circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's. Miss Madge Gill presided.

Science report

Tapping energy sources beneath the ground

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new machine has been built at the City University, London, which converts into electricity the renewable energy in geothermal hot rocks beneath the ground, or the energy discarded in industrial waste steam and hot gases.

After more than 12 years of experimental work, a group under Dr Ian Smith has built a demonstration prototype machine to industrial design standards. It produces 30 kilowatts of electricity.

The development is more than the invention of a novel electrical generator: it is an example of how a technology created in a university research department can be prepared for commercial exploitation.

The machine called project Sphere (single phase heat efficient recovery of energy), was converted into a practical power generation system through collaboration with Solimex, a new organisation formed to exploit the technologies originating in academic laboratories, the university, Howden Compressors and Kvaerner Engineering.

Dr Smith believes the most immediate application for the system is in the conversion of geothermal hot water at temperatures in the 100 to 150 degree Centigrade range. These temperatures are considered to be too low to be economically useful, other than for heating. The same argument applies in the field of industrial waste heat.

The attraction of the City's

OBITUARY

DR PHILIP WILLIAMS

Historian of modern political systems

Dr Philip Williams, FBA, who died suddenly on November 16 at the age of 64, was a distinguished analyst of modern French politics, on which he had written copiously. He was also the author of a substantial biography of Hugh Gaitskell.

Philip Maynard Williams was born on March 17, 1920 and educated at the Stationers' Company School, Hoxsey, and Trinity College, Oxford. He took a first in modern history in 1940.

Apart from his war service and leave periods at Columbia University and at Princeton, his whole working life was spent at Oxford. He became a lecturer at Trinity in 1946 and a Fellow of Nuffield in 1950. He was a Fellow and Tutor of Jesus from 1953 to 1958, when he returned for good to a Fellowship of Nuffield.

Stimulating and immensely thorough as a supervisor of graduate students, he was also a good lecturer and graduate seminars were his forte. He brought to one of Oxford's newest colleges the depth and the human concern, of the best among the old-style bachelor dons, watching over his students' interests unceasingly.

Politics in Post-War France (1954) established Williams at once as a leading authority on modern French institutions. His delineation of the parties and the manoeuvring was magisterial, and it showed his powers of assimilating and organising material. His "fundamental argument", in his own words, was to attribute "The difficulties of French government... to historical and social, rather than to constitutional or temperamental factors".

Yet his belief in parliamentary and democratic methods

made him too kind to the Fourth Republic. The book was completely rewritten for the third edition, entitled *Crisis and Compromise* (1964). With characteristic candour Williams wrote in the new preface: "I seriously over-estimated the stability of a regime which had yet to face a political and emotional challenge as grave as the Irish question in Britain or the problem of the South in the United States".

French politics remained Williams's principal interest during most of the 1960s and for this studies of De Gaulle's Republic he found continual collaborators in Martin Harrison and David Golday.

By the end of the decade, however, he was well embarked on his life of Hugh Gaitskell. This long and authoritative work was delayed first by his extreme conscientiousness as Dean of Nuffield (1968 to 72), and then by two serious illnesses; but when published in 1979 it was acknowledged as a masterly political biography.

It was followed by a shortened version in paper-back and, in 1983, by an edition of Gaitskell's diary. Williams was prolific in writing articles and reviews and in contributing to symposia. The last of these chapters to appear concerned the changing party system of the United States and had been planned as the prologue to a major study of American politics.

Williams had belonged for many years to the Labour party's Gaitskellite wing and was active during the early 1960s in the Campaign for Democratic Socialism. He signed the Limehouse Declaration and joined the Social Democratic Party on its foundation.

PROFESSOR JOHN OSBORNE

Professor John Osborne, who died on November 16 at the age of 73, was the first Professor of Dental Prosthetics in the University of Birmingham, an appointment which he held with distinction from 1948 to 1973.

Born on April 6 1911, he was educated at Bishop Vesey Grammar School, and at the University of Birmingham Dental School. For several years after qualification in 1933, he worked in hospital and general practice gaining a wide experience in clinical dentistry which proved invaluable in his future career.

This began in 1937 when he was appointed Lecturer in Dental Prosthetics at the University of Sheffield. It was in Sheffield that he began his first major work leading to the development of methyl methacrylate resins as a material for the construction of artificial dentures. The aesthetic superiority and the mechanical and handling properties of this material soon rendered the traditional vulcanite obsolete.

For his thesis based on this work, he was awarded the PhD degree of the University of Sheffield, a rare distinction in those days for a dentist.

In 1946, Osborne returned to Birmingham as Senior Lecturer in Dental Prosthetics and in 1948, he was elected to the chair in the subject. His immediate task on appointment was to introduce into a clinical discipline which up to that time had been essentially mechanical and technical, a crucially important biological component.

This he achieved by an intense programme of teaching, and the publication of a series of textbooks which for many years were foremost on recommended reading lists of all the British dental schools and many overseas schools into whose languages the books had been translated.

By the 1950s, it had become clear that for economic and

other reasons, an alternative material to gold had to be found for the construction of the metal base of partial dentures, particularly those of skeleton design. Osborne was in the forefront of the development of the cobalt-chromium alloys which eventually superseded gold and are now generally used in the making of metal dentures throughout the world.

Osborne published extensively in the national and international dental literature, his papers always being succinctly written and of clear practical value.

As a lecturer he was in extensive demand; amongst his many overseas visits, he was Visiting Professor at Northwestern University in Chicago 1956-57, University of Adelaide 1971 and University of Malaya 1973-74.

As a teacher, he was greatly respected by his students who were impressed with his profound knowledge of the subject. None appreciated this more than the ex-servicemen coming up to the university in the two or three years after the end of World War II.

This understanding of students made him an especially sought-after examiner and amongst his many examinations were appointments at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Ireland, and the Universities of Liverpool, Durham, London, Manchester, Glasgow, Dundee, Bristol, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Belfast, Malaya, Lagos and Singapore.

For many years, he was an active member of the British Dental Association and amongst the various offices held were Scientific Adviser to the *British Dental Journal*, and President of the Central Counties Branch. For his work with the British dental schools and his many overseas visits, he was awarded the Tames Medal.

John Osborne is survived by his wife Virginia whom he married in 1937, and their son and daughter.

MR HAROLD NEWGASS, GC

Mr Harold Newgass, GC, who died on November 17, having to return to replenish his oxygen cylinders which had a life of only half an hour, he lashed the mine to prevent it slipping and then succeeded in turning it, a herculean task for one man encumbered with self-contained breathing apparatus.

Suffering increasingly from fatigue he nevertheless raised fuse, primer and detonator and finally after two days work, the clock had this started during the operation nothing could have prevented what would have been a devastating explosion.

This feat not only won him the immediate award of GC but a gold cigarette case from the gas company and a set of cufflinks from its employees. But he treasured most the little presents which were given to him by the people in the neighbourhood whose houses had been saved from destruction.

A Dorset landowner before the war, Newgass returned to his country afterwards, enjoying country pursuits and being active as a councillor in local government.

COLIN WALCOTT

Colin Walcott, an American Jazz musician who recorded extensively under Miles Davis, has died in an East German hospital near Berlin from injuries received in a road accident on November 8.

Well-known as an avant-

garde instrumentalist who played Drums and Sitar, Walcott had studied under Ravi Shankar and later recorded about a dozen records with Davis. He had also recorded with Oregon, a modern jazz ensemble, and with the trio Cadena.

He was a member of the British Dental Association and amongst the various offices held were Scientific Adviser to the *British Dental Journal*, and President of the Central Counties Branch. For his work with the British dental schools and his many overseas visits, he was awarded the Tames Medal.

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Important English Drawings and Watercolours: Tuesday, 20 November at 11 a.m., King Street. This morning's sale contains an important collection of 14 watercolours by Francis Towne representing every stage of his career from an early tour of Wales in 1777 to his death in 1816. Prices are expected to range from £2,500 to £12,000. Towne's pupil, John White Abbott, is represented by a characteristic view of Windermere executed on his tour of the Lake District in 1791 (£1,500 to £2,000). A fine group of works by J. M. W. Turner is headed by *Mont Blanc, from the Bridge of St. Martin*, *Salamanca*, datable to 1807. An earlier work, untraced since the turn of the century, is *The West Front of Bath Abbey*, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1796 (£12,000 to £15,000). There are two important Gainsborough discoveries, both particularly fine and finished works dating from around 1760. A major late work by Thomas Girtin, now identified for the first time as a view of Wetherby, is included (£15,000 to £20,000) while among later watercolours there is a particularly good group of works by William Calow, including the artist's earliest major Venetian subject *The Riva degli Schiavoni dated 1841* (£8,000 to £12,000). Characteristic works by William Blake, Thomas Rowlandson, Samuel Palmer, David Cox, Peter de Wint and Edward Lear are also included. *Entries for next sale close 17 December 1984.*

Orders, Decorations and Campaign Medals: Tuesday, 28 November at 10.30 a.m., King Street. Medals being offered today include nationally important honours and awards. A group of 12 to Admiral Sir W. C. Pakenham, R. N. second-in-command of the Battle Cruiser Fleet at Jutland, 1916, includes an Order of the Bath, an Order of St. Michael and St. George and a Royal Victorian Order (£6,000 to £7,000). There is also an interesting group from the explorer Lieut. Boyd Alexander, leader of the Trans-African expedition, 1904/7. Among the Orders there is a Star of India to William Malcolm Hailey, later Sir Baron Hailey, among other appointments Governor of the Punjab from 1924-28 (£22,000 to £25,000); an extremely rare Lord Chief Justice's collar of St. S. (£10,000 to £12,000) and an Order of the Thistle (£3,500 to £4,000). *Entries for next sale close 12 January 1985.*

Musical Instruments and Printed Music: Tuesday, 20 November at 2.30 p.m., King Street. There are three major items in this afternoon's sale: a Stradivari, a part-Strad and an extremely rare viola by Giovanni Paolo Maggini of Brescia. The latter, dating from 1600-1610, is in its original condition and is, without doubt, one of the purest of surviving examples. Maggini was not a prolific maker and there are probably less than two dozen violas and cellos by him in existence. The Stradivari, made in Cremona, circa 1729-30, is known as the ex-Oscar Mez, after its 19th century owner. A fine violin in part by Antonio Stradivari is expected to realise in the region of £30,000. It carries a certificate from Hill & Sons, the violin makers, dated 1936 attesting to it being formerly the property of a good amateur by the name of Hill, a member of the well-known firm of tailors who carried on business in Old Bond St. *Entries for next sale close 29 January 1985.*

Modern Sporting Guns and Vintage Firearms: Wednesday, 21 November at 11 a.m., King Street. The sale contains a good selection, mostly 12-bore, of British hammerless sporting shotguns suitable for use, including 15 pairs and over 40 individual guns by such makers as Bosc, Churchill, Evans, Grant, Greener, Holland & Holland, Lang, Powell, Priddy and Woodward. Of special interest among the 12-bore is a set of three 'Royal' sidelock ejectors by Holland & Holland (£10,000 to £15,000) and an unusually light and attractive boxlock ejector, chambered for the .2in. cartridge, by W. Powell (£1,500 to £2,000). There are also excellent prospects in other gauges, from .410 to 10-bore. In the vintage category, the most interesting item is a rare Boss Patent ejector 10-bore hammer gun (£2,500 to £3,500) built circa 1891 as one of a set of three for a celebrated shot, Lord Herbert (Berrie) Vane-Tempest. *Entries for next sale close 23 January 1985.*

Antique Arms and Armour: Wednesday, 21 November at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street. The main attraction is a large collection of Islamic weapons of good quality amassed by the late John Turner Blair of Belfast, including swords, daggers, armour and firearms from Persia, India, Turkey, Russia, Ceylon and elsewhere. The rest of the sale includes fine swords and elements of armour, an outstanding case Colt .44 sidehammer percussion rifle, two fine wheel-lock Turkish, and a case pair of silver-mounted Bontier flintlock pistols presented in 1800 by Napoleon Bonaparte to the Austrian General and diplomat Joseph von Saint-Julien. *Entries for next sale close 4 February 1985.*

Islamic, Indian and South-East Asian Manuscripts, Miniatures and Works of Art: Thursday, 22 November at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. and Friday, 23 November at 10.30 a.m., King Street. Korans figure prominently in this sale. Arabic texts include a biography of the authoritative work on the building of the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem by Jalaluddin al-Suyuti (£7,000 to £10,000), while the Mughal and Rajasthani section includes a number of items from the Warren Hastings album. Works of art include a large Sino-Tibetan group (£3,000 to £6,000) and a series of large Thai Buddhas. Friday's sale includes an unusual and early Turkoman gold necklace (£2,000 to £3,000) as well as early pottery and metalwork. *Entries for next sale close 15 April 1985.*

Important English Pictures: Friday, 23 November at 11 a.m., King Street. Joseph Wright of Derby's conversation piece of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Colman setting out to ride—long considered the artist's greatest portrait group—is the star item in next Friday's sale of English Pictures. On a par with the best of Gainsborough, Reynolds and Zoffany the work was executed in 1770-71 for £63. Until recently, a portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck of Anne Carr, Countess of Bedford was known only through a number of copies. Having discovered the original, it is to be offered as Lot 68. Also on offer is a wooded landscape with a herdman driving cattle towards a pool by Gainsborough, circa 1786: a portrait of the Hon. Lionel Damer by Bonomi and, from the hand of J. F. Herring, Sen., a view of the preparations for the start of the Doncaster Gold Cup of 1825—a variant of a picture sold from the Joel Collection at Christie's last July for £320,000. *Entries for next sale close 3 December 1984.*

Japanese Prints, Screens and Works of Art: Monday and Tuesday, 26 and 27 November at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. each day, King Street. The first part of this two-day sale contains prints, reference books, swords and sword fittings. Of particular note among the prints next Monday is a late 18th century example of Kunitada of the actor Sawamura Jōjō III in the role of Tairo no Kiyomori as a lay priest in *Genpei Hōshiagayumi* (£7,000 to £10,000), one of the artist's earliest masterpieces. *Entries for next sale close 9 January 1985.*

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THE ARTS

Galleries

Shrewd Victorian impressions

James Tissot
Barbican

Rural and Urban Images
Pym's

Ye Ladye Bountifulle
Christopher Wood

James Tissot is an enigma, and was, even in his own lifetime. And, as with most real enigmas, more knowledge does not dispel the mystery, but rather enables us to see still more contradictions and creates as many subsidiary puzzles as it resolves. Very soon after his death in 1902, Tissot was swept out of public memory along with antimacassars and *The Monarch of the Glen*, a superficial artist who failed to make the most of his (even Ruskin admitted) spectacular gifts and concentrated instead on exploiting the rapidly passing appeal of "vulgar society". As soon as the clothes and the looks of his pretty ladies went out of style, so it was presumed, all the slight interest his pictures might once have had for serious people vanished too.

When the indefatigable James Laver tried to revive interest in him in 1936, it was apologetically, as raw material for social history rather than for any truly aesthetic qualities. A faint whiff of this prejudice still persists: it has been difficult to make up our own minds without access to a large body of Tissot's actual work. But now the Barbican Gallery has filled the gap with a finely comprehensive show (until January 20) which at least enables us to decide what we think of Tissot as a painter, and maybe, takes us closer to the heart of his mystery as a man.

The two are in practice inseparable. Even Tissot's contemporaries puzzled over his motivation. Was he, in his pictures of bourgeois society, a subtle social critic or a cynic pandering to the lowest tastes of his audience, a gossip columnist in paint? When he left France at the

time of the Commune, to spend 12 key years of his career in England, was he really a respectable political refugee, or had his involvement with the Commune been merely that of an opportunistic turncoat? Was his abandonment of religious subjects early in his career and his much-publicized return to them in the 1880s a genuine history of the prodigal repentant, or just an astute response to market pressures?

Was there, for that matter, any truth at all in the terrible tales, circulated by Arnold Bennett among others, of his driving his London mistress to suicide before he went back to France? None of these questions, admittedly, would have anything to do with his technical abilities as a painter, but they might throw some light on his curiously ambiguous attitudes to his subject-matter, sacred or profane. They might, but they probably do not. Nowadays, after Michael Wen-
thorpe's admirable biography and the book/catalogue which accompanies this exhibition (£6.95 at the show), we can give reasonably reliable answers to all of them, but the work still holds its mystery, and has to be judged for itself. Just to look at the many pictures which feature the mistress in question, Mrs Newton, in the various stages of her slow decline towards death from consumption, we must know how deep his devotion to her was, and how likely it was that he would have a sincere reversion to the religion of his childhood after her death. There are not enough of the religious works from the *Life of Christ* cycle and the Old Testament series which occupied his last years for us to judge the artistic weight of his religious feelings, but personal sincerity is after all something else again.

And what of the social pictures which were the source of his fame and, later, the reason for its eclipse? We really cannot tell whether he was more admiring or critical of these gilded butterflies; the ambiguity confirms his special quality as a truly disinterested observer. Tissot was a close friend of Manet and, though he seems to be not at all influenced by Impressionism, his attitude to his

subject-matter is quite similar to that of Manet in his portraits: that is, he can from time to time be quite taken by the glitter and glamour, but he never seems to be taken in.

Look, for instance, at the extraordinary painting of *The Empress Eugénie and the Prince Imperial* at Chislehurst, c.1874: what we are shown is a weedy young man who can hardly manage to grow a moustache, and a very frumpy middle-aged lady who might be a concubine. Clearly Tissot is not unmoved by their plight, and not unconscious of the glamour that has fled, but equally clearly he would have cast a cold eye on them even at the height of their glory.

In the same way, one cannot be wrong in detecting a melancholy undertone in even those pictures which seem most completely to celebrate worldly pleasures: the reception at which *L'Ambitieux* is showing off her stunning pink dress does not, if one examines the details, look like a very pleasant place to be, and most often Tissot's characters are caught in a sort of *tempo mort*, as dusk falls, "waiting for the ferry" metaphorically as well as in one famous case (featuring the ill-fated Kathleen Newton) quite literally. There are also elements of humour in his depiction of society, as in that monument to social embarrassment *Too Early*, and real unsentimental affection in his pictures of children.

In this context even such a familiar painting as the National Portrait Gallery's *Frederick Gustavus Burnaby*, jolling negligently, the picture of *élégance militaire* off-duty, gives off unexpected resonances which make it seem (especially if compared with superficially similar Sargent's) vividly and unexpectedly modern. Now that we are far enough away from Victorianism and the reaction to Victorianism to see Tissot without prejudice, he emerges at last as an artist of importance as well as a superficially lively recorder of the Victorian scene. It is the sort of revolution in regard that only a major retrospective can bring about, and this show does it beyond a shadow of a doubt. It is some measure of Tissot's



The literal metaphor: Kathleen Newton pictured by Tissot *Waiting for the Ferry*

singular quality as it emerges here that one realizes immediately how unfair it would be to measure against Tissot the contents of two other current shows in London which might well (though neither of them does) include Tissot in their terms of reference: *Rural and Urban Images* at Pym's Gallery and *Ye Ladye Bountifulle* at the Christopher Wood Gallery, both in Motcomb Street, Belgrave, both until November 30. The Pym's show is devoted to British and French pictures of life in town and country from 1870 to 1920; Christopher Wood's show, more light-heartedly, looks at women and children in Victorian art, with the accent on the prettiness of the subjects and the picturesqueness of their circumstances. It is, indeed, not always clear whether the plain-artists in the Pym's show have any particular social axe to grind or not. The countryside they depict is sometimes spectacularly

beautiful, even when it consists mainly of what was probably in fact a fairly mucky farmyard, and the peasant ladies who largely people it mostly have an air of wistful melancholy more redolent of idleness and uninterrupted contemplation than of hard slogging work. Even in towns the life depicted seems little different: in the prize of the show, Dagnan-Bouveret's *Sur les Quais de Paris en automne* (1880), we may surmise that the pretty laundress is exhausted from her toil, but she looks quite comfortable, resting there oblivious of the admiring gaze of a couple of masters gazing by. So be it: we are not here dealing with social criticism, and why should we? The painterly qualities of such as Clausen, La Thangue, Millet, Jules Breton and others more than suffice, and the social message, if any, in the show's one really uncomfortable picture, Orpen's *The Rape*, seems in this context something of a liability.

Christopher Wood's show, though it includes a couple of excellent Rossetti drawings, is for the most part unashamedly nearer kitsch. Painters like John Collier may be in *The Laboratory* (pretty lady accepting a philtre of some kind from an apothecary), but the picture can be appreciated only as superior camp. Many of the other subjects are not so much pretty as prettified - though I would make an exception of Charles Spence's charming child portrait (with piggyback deer hound) *Little Red Riding Hood*. Comment, beyond a few appreciative eases and oohs, is at a premium - which is absolutely fine unless one comes to the show with the richness and complexity of Tissot's attitudes in mind. But then, as I said, we now know for sure that Tissot is, within his range, incomparable.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

Where the music is still deeply felt

Amadeus Quartet
Festival Hall

The balance of the Amadeus Quartet is unique: three supremely reliable chamber music players matched by one wayward genius. It follows that the success or otherwise of their concerts tends to depend on the wayward genius rather than on his colleagues. On Sunday, playing in the inhumanly large arena of the Festival Hall, Norbert Brainin was, until the last couple of movements in the concert, gloriously on form, and the all-Beethoven programme

provided some of the most satisfying Amadeus playing one could imagine. The term "Amadeus playing" is imprecise, but anyone who has ever heard them will know what it means: something to do with depth of sound, with the savouring of every note, with expressive nuances so carefully studied that they are second nature, yet found newly created. You could not guess how to infect the rising semi-quaver scales near the start of Op 59 No 2, where to make the tiniest breath, unless you had some of the Amadeus' 37 playing years behind you; you could not calculate the exactly matched

rising intensity of those syncopated chords at the end of the first half of that movement unless you had four-way inter-sensory perception. But the character of their playing is essentially Brainin's. It is he who animates the *Leato* of the Op 135 Quartet with a deep vibrato which is never cloying, always controlled. It is he who bounces his way hysterically through the cross-string dance of the *Vivace*. And it is he who rises into the mists of *legger lines* with that rhapsodically eloquent tone of which he is master.

Occasionally he slips, and the result is a mess; towards the end of Op 59 No 2 there were signs

of tiring, and the skittish pungency of the first violin line in the finale was not projected with such effortless skill as that in Op 18 No 4. Occasionally for a moment, or for a few pages, one feels the ensemble slip on to automatic pilot, as if the act of recreation has become effortful. But the wonder is, with such a limited repertoire as the Amadeus, that this does not happen all the time. Whatever else the Amadeus may be, they are not too fluent or too superficial: deep down, the music is still felt, and it shows.

Nicholas Kenyon

Sustained urgency

LPO/Handley
Festival Hall

There is no more savage war requiem than Prokofiev's Sixth Symphony. Totally without rest, yet never resting even in its restlessness, its tensions and paradoxes were entirely grasped on Sunday night by Vernon Handley and the London Philharmonic in a performance of powerful understanding. Handley's skill lay in generating and sustaining urgency in a work which often seems, until the finale, to be hauling itself along, borne down upon as if by intolerable weight. And in the finale, propelled by the very motive which was for Prokofiev the force of evil itself, Handley was as merciless as the composer in drawing his players up to the full agony of the climax which precedes the dry, truncated ending. Just as earlier on he would catch the slightest nerve movement on the face of the work, so the LPO were eager to realize it in superbly charac-

terized wind solos and deftly articulated string and percussion playing. As if to sharpen the symphony's raw shock mechanisms, Eugene Sarbu had given a benign, reassuring performance before the interval of Brahms's Violin Concerto. The work was presented full face on, broad, expansive, holding few secrets and making few revelations. What it lost in wonder it gained in resolution. The three relentless beats of the orchestral introduction were all but lost in Handley's long, lustrous line and bold paraphrasing, making sure that the soloist knew well, perhaps all too well, exactly where he was going.

More sense of individual spirit filtered through, curiously enough, in the violin's role as accompanist in the slow movement. Phrases were shaped and subdivided lithely, ensemble was freely and finely pointed, before the driving force of a finale firmly on the western side of the Austro-Hungarian border.

Hilary Finch

Zukerman/Neikrug
Barbican

The three Beethoven violin sonatas played in this recital by Pinchas Zukerman and Marc Neikrug represent the composer in relatively gentle vein. That is not to imply, however, that they are works without the jaggedness or outrageous gestures that mark Beethoven as individualist supreme. Even in the E flat Sonata, Op 12 No 3, strictly a late eighteenth-century piece, the music had begun to free itself from the straightjacket of a purely classical expression. The Adagio reaches particularly deep, and here it was given weighty expression by Zukerman's rich penetrating tone and finely judged tempo.

Beethoven still adheres to the tradition of a lightweight finale to provide an easy exit from such depths. By 1800 and the "Spring" Sonata, Op 24, all that was changing. Here first and last movements are more or less in equilibrium, neither of them without its more stormy moments, for all the work's overall tranquillity. Zukerman and Neikrug understood well

the elements of light and shade in this music; they appreciated, too, the rough-edged humour of the catch-as-catch-can Scherzo.

A dozen years on from this, Beethoven, at the height of his powers, was able to combine simplicity and complexity, lightness and depth, without contradiction in the G major Sonata, Op 96. The finale, a set of variations on a straightforward little tune, manages to combine sonata, adagio, scherzo and rondo, while the Adagio proper is as moving as anything Beethoven wrote, and the curious ideas that are the basic components of the first movement are miraculously built into a gently contoured yet imposing edifice.

Zukerman and Neikrug were at once mellow and alive to every nuance here, and one could apportion the blame for the piano's fuzzy image to the odd acoustic of this hall. But more disquieting was the feeling that everything came just too easily to these artists. Even this sort of Beethoven needs some degree of blood, sweat and tears to give it spontaneity.

Stephen Pettitt

London debuts Rich yet agile

Winning the GKN English Song Award 1984 gave the baritone Michael Pearce a Wigmore Hall opportunity which he seized with considerable flair. His bold programme, mainly avoiding hackneyed "hey nonnies" in favour of rare delights like John Eccles's "The jolly, oily breeze" or the sophisticated lyricism of Frank Bridge, was delivered with a full-bodied yet surprisingly agile tone. An intermittently tense upper register showed itself in Vaughan Williams's *Songs of Travel*, where "The Vagabond" was perhaps too fleet-footed - more a jet-set jogger than a noble tramp. Yet in Fauré's *Rainier's* taxing, unaccompanied *Cycle for Declaration Dore's* ringing rhetoric was projected with an admirably unforced gravity.

Pearce added some calculated comic touches to Rebecca Clarke's bathos-laden "The Aspidochelone" - hammy, but genuinely funny. It was a pity, then, that he did not risk a more extrovert characterization in

other songs, particularly Purcell's "Let the dreadful engines", which was placed too early in the programme for such a *tour de force*. Christine Bunning made the same error in her Wigmore debut, opening with Purcell's quicksilver "If music be the food of love" before her faculties were properly warmed. But the Schubert songs that followed, intelligently phrased to give a big, rich voice the space to muster its full vibrancy, made obvious this soprano's great potential.

Four Rachmaninov songs, delivered in fine Russianate style, were the musical highlights, but Miss Bunning

showed a winning personality in the humorous "Storchensbot-schaft" (that rare thing, a Hugo Wolf joke) and in the brittle ironies of the Britten/Auden cabaret songs. Experience will bring a greater flexibility of timbre to her French repertoire, though here there are already good things, notably a well-pointed response to Poulenc's quirky wit.

In the Purcell Room, the American soprano Susan Gregory was at her best in Debussy (including the marvelous "De Reve") where she produced some cultivated tone that stood up well to the demanding contours. Elsewhere, especially in Samuel Barber's evocative *Knave's Summer of 1915*, she seemed unwilling to acknowledge that song texts consist of consonants as well as vowels, and her often tenuous grasp of intonation was unequal to the challenge of Brahms.

Richard Morrison

Opera

La clemenza di Tito
Metropolitan,
New York

The Metropolitan Opera has completed the task of presenting the major Mozart operas with its first production of *La clemenza di Tito*. The performance, conducted with a combination of caressing delicacy and dynamism by James Levine, was produced by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. It essentially repeated and elaborated on several prior productions, most recently one at the Salzburg Festival. But the effort here strayed even further into gigantism.

Ponnelle's decisions, such as having the costumes of the eighteenth century, were understandable, but too much of his business mixed genres to no coherent purpose. The opera opened as if it were *Rosencavalier* Vitebella in a negligie in bed, and Sesto, dressed as Octavian, beside it. This stage picture is entirely foreign to opera *seria*, and to the characters involved in this opera. The first-act finale - the burning of Rome - was turned into a light show with appearing and disappearing statues, and at the beginning of the second the detritus onstage suggested a full-scale Visigoth sacking.

One of the work's finest musical moments, the bass-horn rondo, was treated as a romantic scene replete with a pool of light in which the Vitebella, Renata Scotti, bathed with sinuous gestures and sweet-toned pianissimos. She made of the rondo a whole meal, giving it the importance of Lucia's Mad Scene.

It must be added, however, that elsewhere Scotti gave a strong and restrained performance. Her secco recitatives were excellently handled - here was truly the stuff of drama - and until she had to put pressure on the voice, or carry it too high, she sang with grace and poise, albeit without much floritura.

Ann Murray at the last moment stepped into the role of Sesto for an indisposed Tatiana Troyanos (Miss Murray was to have sung it later in the season). The voice - well-produced but with a perceptible background tremolo that occasionally obscures pitch - is a trifle undercharacterized, but her youthful ardour and stylistic sureness were assets. Ariel Bybee, who took over Annio from Murray, sang very well, with a more masculine presence than Murray's. Kenneth Riegel's tenor, always under strain and never a pleasing sound, was tested to its limits as the clement Tito. There were moments at the end of the second act aria "Se all'impero" when one felt he would not be able to finish.

Patrick J. Smith

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● Britain beware investment blunders

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Edited by Matthew May

● No real yen for Japanese system

Another wait for Windows

By Chris Rowley, New York

The hazards of the software industry are illustrated by the news that VisiCorp, who had the first big microcomputer hit with VisiCalc, has merged with Palladin Software.

VisiCorp has had difficulties this year, with the long court battle over VisiCalc, with the designers of that program, Software Arts which was settled out of court. Then VisiCorp sold off its much heralded VisiOn software technology.

Recently VisiCorp was said to be rich, but with poor ideas, and Palladin was seeking money to continue development of an artificial intelligence data base product.

Also in the news was Microsoft, which announced another delay on its "Windows" product, which will not now be released until next June. Microsoft first announced that "Windows" would be ready for the market last November. Questions are now being asked about whether it will ever appear.

One new software product that does seem likely to be on the market soon is the new Wordstar 2000. To be called Wordstar 2000 the new program represents a significant change of approach by Micropro.

Old Wordstar is one of the best sellers of microcomputer software, with at least one million copies sold. However the new Wordstar 2000 will be different in many respects from the old.

For a start it will be for the IBM PC and one of the closest of the clones, the Compaq. Wordstar 2000 is leaving the 8 bit, CP/M world behind, the so-called lower end business users will have to make do with Wordstar version 3.3. An upgrade of that is promised as well, but Micropro aren't saying when it will become available.

Wordstar 2000 will offer such things as proportional spacing, an "undo" command, a three part split screen, multiple line headers and footers.

But only for the 16 bit IBM world, at least for now, though Micropro is developing versions for the Macintosh and Unix systems. Wordstar 2000 will retail initially at \$495 (£390).

Office automation experimental group offer manufacturers a wish-list

How does office automation impact on people in the office? Does office automation demand a new breed of office worker, with all that that implies for recruitment, training and redeployment? What does office automation do to the quality of office life and the environment? What reaction do unions have to office automation? What hidden costs and benefits are incurred?

Those are the questions which have been posed for an experiment by the National Coal Board and Wang (UK) in bringing a combination of technologies for moving towards the near-paperless office.

The scheme is one of the ventures supported by the Department of Trade and Industry's office automation pilot projects, each of which is backed by £250,000 of Government money. In return each of the guinea-pigs, of what has become known as the 21 Club, document the experience for the benefit of any other potential user of new technology in the office.

The projects are arranged so that in each case a user, supplier and specialist computer consultant work together. Most of the organizations have reached the halfway stage of the trials, and the results of their

experiences are being reported through the *Bulletin*, a quarterly publication from the Department of Trade and Industry and available to any interested group.

The latest issue published contains an account of the experience of several users who are exploiting personal computers as an addition to their office automation strategies. It explains how PCs are linked into the general office automation systems.

The users that have employed this strategy include the BBC personnel department, Brighton Health Authority, British Telecom long range and strategic studies division, the NCB, and the Greater London Council scientific services branch.

The intriguing thing about the PC is that even in the rigorous arrangements of the pilot projects it allows individuals the scope for "doing their own thing".

One of the generic issues made obvious by the pilot projects is that the vision of office automation as "tomorrow's world" brochures is not a true reflection of the state of the art.

Certainly, the *Bulletin* presents a 'warts and all' account of the way

the partners have managed their ideas of office automation into practical day-to-day systems. For instance, Ian Cowing of Strathclyde Regional Council, and one of the experienced users, talks not about suppliers in particular, but rather the whole concept of office automation

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright
Science editor

which gives a misleading impression that there are systems already available which provide all the functions that the user needs.

One thing emerging from pilot projects is that success depends upon a high degree of commitment by all the participants. Another veteran, Tam Fry, was concerned that the use of the word "pilot" might give people involved the idea that it did not matter if the scheme did not work. His pilot at the BBC meant "life or death in that it didn't work, Breakfast Time was not going to work".

One of the results of the trials has been the creation of a customers "wish list" of things which the users are compiling as necessary for shaping the design of future products.

In another effort to stimulate the exploitation of new technology in the office, the department has sponsored, with the Institute of Administrative Management, a comparison of organizations who have introduced or rejected information technology.

The findings were the subject of a conference of the institute which met on Friday.

The conclusions the meeting faced were that a clear correlation existed between the financial performance of a company and its application of information technology.

The evidence shows that companies lagging in the use of information technology are six times more likely to have poor financial performance within their sector of industry than the companies which are at the leading edge of exploiting technology.

The degree to which technology sharpens the competitive edge is spelled out in *The Barriers and the*

Opportunities of Information Technology, a Management Perspective, which was prepared for the conference by Tom Bovington and Max Hand of A. T. Kearney Management Consultants.

Companies in heavy and light manufacturing, construction, chemicals and oil, retail and distribution, finance, and local government were interviewed.

The conclusions were that many companies have failed to align their IT strategy with that of their business. A disturbing number of firms are said not to see or recognise how IT could make a contribution to their business.

But the successful users, and none of those believed they had reached more than 80 per cent of their potential benefit available from technology, in management could identify clearly where their competitive edge had been sharpened in areas of reducing costs and improving customer service.

Bulletin, Office Automation Unit, Information Technology Division, Department of Trade and Industry, 39 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DT.

JAM, 40 Chatsworth Parade, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR3 1RW.

The new way to cut costs

By Frank Brown

A large oil company requiring a distributed computer system for a subsidiary was advised to purchase hardware worth £175,000 and to commission specially-written programs when a consultant was called in to advise on procurement. However the parent company's computer specialists rejected the proposal because they said that it was an out-moded and expensive way of tackling the problem.

They consulted a small firm in Preston which took the opposite approach by considering software needs first and choosing hardware to suit. They proposed a system that was half the cost and had twice the flexibility and processing power.

The remarkable thing was that the Preston firm, Atlas Computer Consultants, produced its findings in less than a day, even though it had analysed the thousands of operating systems and applications packages available and the hardware offerings of all the distributed processing producers.

Atlas has enlisted the help of a computer to radically improve the procurement of computers and created a database of the vast amount of hardware and software on the market. The database, believed to be the first of its kind to be offered as a commercial service, contains salient details of 2,000 suppliers, their products and services, which includes some 50,000 software packages in 400 applications areas.

The client completes a questionnaire which helps to establish his immediate and future computing requirements in the form of 25 different parameters which are used to interrogate the database. The analysis can be completed in minutes and a short list of about six possible suppliers is printed. Atlas consultants then reduce the list to two and submit it to the client.

Customers pay either a consultancy retainer of £350 a day, plus expenses, or a £750 deposit repayable when the client buys or leases a system, with Atlas taking a commission from the supplier.

The client can insure against the possibility of the chosen system not meeting requirements. It guarantees the performance against the agreed specification and provides for installation of an alternative system. Cost is a once-only payment of £23.50 a £1,000 of system cost.

Some 300 clients of all sizes have used the system for procuring systems costing between £6,000 and £2.5 million.

Atlas managing director Maurice Hamlin estimates that of the 30,000 companies that sought computer systems by traditional methods last year, at least half subsequently found they had bought inadequate systems. "Thousands of single-user systems were sold to people who needed multi-user systems because the vendors had no such systems and trained their sales people to convince customers that larger systems were unnecessary."

Disappointing sales for MSX system

By Simon Scott Plummer, Tokyo

The MSX home computer system, adopted by 13 major Japanese companies and a recent arrival on the European market, has not done as well as expected in its first year. However, the participants remain optimistic about its chances of becoming the world standard for personal computers.

According to Ken Suzuki, managing director of the Japan electronic industry development association, sales since last November have amounted to about 320,000 units. This compares with a forecast of between 400,000 and 700,000 by Kazuhiko Nishi, father of the MSX project.

The companies involved have put about 30 machines on the Japanese market. Prices range from nearly one hundred and fifty thousand yen (about £500) for a Sony computer with a floppy disc drive to under thirty thousand yen (about £100) for a

Casio model with only 8k ram and no printer interface, which is aimed at the video game end of the market.

With the exception of Fujitsu, the largest Japanese computer company, the MSX members are consumer electronics manufacturers which wanted to get into the field of home computers and were attracted by the idea of compatibility.

All MSX machines are designed around a Zilog Z80A 8-bit microprocessor, a general instrument audio chip, a Texas Instruments video chip and a 32k ram containing Basic developed by the American company Microsoft.

This means that peripherals or software developed by or for any one MSX company can be used with all computers bearing the MSX label. "Until now computer production has had a history of incompatibility," said Masao Morita of Sony, the son of Akio Morita, the company's co-founder and chairman. "We are confident that MSX will become a world standard."

Compatibility will enable MSX companies to offer a wide range of software, hitherto a weakness of Japanese home computer makers. They hope it will also prove attractive to retailers and consumers who are at present faced with a bewildering array of incompatible products.

Another selling point for the MSX system is its expandability, so that a purchaser who first wants it simply for video games can later use it for word processing, spread sheets, electronic mail and other functions.

JVC's HC-6, for example, will help in the editing of videotapes, while Yamaha will offer a music synthesizer which can be clipped to the bottom of the computer.

Companies which have joined the MSX project are Matsushita, Sony, Hitachi, Toshiba, Yamaha, Mitsubishi, JVC, Sanyo, Canon, Fujitsu, Pioneer, General and Casio. NEC and Sharp, which with Fujitsu, are the biggest Japanese personal computer manufacturers, have so far stayed out. Overseas, Goldstar, Daewoo and Samsung have adopted MSX in South Korea, and Philips has licensed the right to make MSX-based computers in Europe.

The creator of the new standard is Mr Kazuhiko Nishi, a 28-year-old computer engineer and entrepreneur who is a vice president both of Microsoft in Bellevue, Washington and of ASCII Corporation in Japan, the country's largest supplier of microcomputer software and magazines.

In an interview with *The Times* he said he expected that one million MSX machines would have been sold by the end of 1985. MSX models would be exhibited next January at the Las Vegas consumer electronic show and would be launched on the potentially huge American market in time for Christmas. By then a good choice of software would be available.

In the meantime the manufacturers' sights are on pre-Christmas 1984 sales in Britain, West Germany, Italy, Holland and Spain, all countries which have adopted the PAL system for television broadcasting.

Mr Morita of Sony said it would be difficult to succeed in the British market, given the dominance of Sinclair and the BBC Micro, but there had already been a good response to MSX for British software houses.

Sony will initially offer two computers, the HB-55B and HB-75B, which sell in Japan for about fifty-five thousand yen (£180) and seventy thousand yen (£230) respectively. Both have 16k ROM built-in software to make them easier to use for newcomers to computing. The more expensive version has 64k RAM.

The difference a computer can make to the school's cross country run

By Mike Skinsley

"When are we going to use the computer in the gym again, sir?" An unusual question, but it is part of a success story of how a micro has enhanced the curriculum within my subject in my school.

It is in complete contrast to the gloomy picture Paul Davies painted (Computer Horizons, 9 October) of his failures with a computer and its word processing facilities. Not all computers, word processors and printers have faults: care in selecting well-tested hardware will bring the rewards of satisfaction and success in developing a computerised "teaching assistant".

Some manufacturers' claims can be misleading and their manuals may not always make sense. Some software, including word processors, may be too complex for general school use and a more simple version may be quite adequate for most needs. In my limited experience I soon realised that the computer could be of great value to my pupils and to my curriculum as well as to myself.

As a head of physical education I am probably the last person expected to use computers and word processors regularly for school work but there are areas where the computer can be of great assistance to a teacher.

Its efficient at what I call "number crunching", and "name manipulation", since it will produce lists or tables which would otherwise take me (or someone else) hours to produce. I can now produce printed lists of pupils alphabetically whenever the need arises.



The computer can also sort out my PE options - an operation which used to take several hours to calculate. Then the lists had to be hand-written.

Teachers should use word processors regularly but it is unlikely to occur for some time. All staff rooms and departmental offices should have a WP facility which is regularly used by all the staff for all their written material and we ought to write my own programs for the pupils for some of their written work. In typing letters, minutes, worksheets, teaching and in the first place - instead of using the word processor to originate this material.

I produce an annual 22-page faculty handbook on the word processor. It is saved on disk and is easy to amend.

Some areas of the curriculum have software commercially available though one could argue about some of the quality. There is little in the way of software to help the PE teacher. There are those occasions when results have to be analysed, announced and printed for display. In particular there is the cross country race sports day results and I have had to write my own programs for these. These are retained on disk for future years.

Playing 'games' on home

A blunder we cannot afford

By Alan Benjamin

Is the British investment community about to commit the blunder of the century by disinvestment from the information technology sector. Can we blame them for what is already being called the "computer shake out".

Well-publicised American failures, such as Victor Sirius, Osborne, Gavilan and the "flat" results from several of IBM competitors, have unnerved their investment community. Acorn's results - a profit of £10 million on sales of £90 million "have disappointed". Yet this is being said about a company that hardly existed four years ago. Several setbacks in the US market, particularly for microcomputer assemblers or distributors, have led to fashionable money in London seeking new reasons. Public relations and advertising are expected to be the next craze.

Typical of the way we dabble

Vast funds are required for information technologies which will enable Britain to modernise its industry, streamline its service economy, create new occupations in new technologies and run its administration and social infrastructure. It will be a massive blunder if the investment community switches off large-scale funds with long-term horizons.

Current activities in venture capital, such as those of Frutich or the Electric Fund, are useful, even vital beginnings, but I submit are typical of the way we dabble.

Over the next 20 years our needs in education and training, research and development and new methods of delivering health care will be largely based upon or aided by information technology. Some of our future industries - those based upon knowledge, design, highly-automated manufacture and information services - can only be successful, indeed can only be created, if we invest in information technology.

The investment community of the future will itself be



Alan Benjamin is chairman of the NEDO long-term prospectus study group and a director of the CAP Group. He was also chairman of Information Technology Year in 1982.

that will enable people to work wherever they like and the consequent effect upon office block values. We ignore automation and robot technology that with new microprocessor aided-design is driving a coach and horses through plant and machinery values. And patents? With today's rate of technological change what is the value of a patent today, other than a minimal lead time?

We need to raise our sights not only in terms of the size of future investments into information technology, computer-integrated manufacturing, design, and all the technical infrastructure that surrounds it, but also the nature of the return and its time scale. No publicly-quoted company dares to engage in long-term large scale research and development because their profits will be reduced or eliminated. One result is to keep what research and development does take place separated from marketing strategy. Even worse marketing strategy is created without the benefit of the research trends.

New age of entrepreneur s

Though this scale of research would ensure future growth and create many jobs, it is not acceptable financially. The result is that research is largely the domain of the university and lacks the critical market link that is the potency for future product success.

The impact of a British Telecom issue every year, with perhaps £2 billion targeted at long-term investments into the high technology industrial and service sectors, would be a real stimulus. The availability of such funds and the encouragement resulting from their long term nature would create a new age of British entrepreneurs and new organizations. It would give hope to the young - to the designers, the engineers, the scientists, the musicians, the craftsmen and above all the business man whose activities in the twenty-first century will create wealth and gainful occupations in the nation.

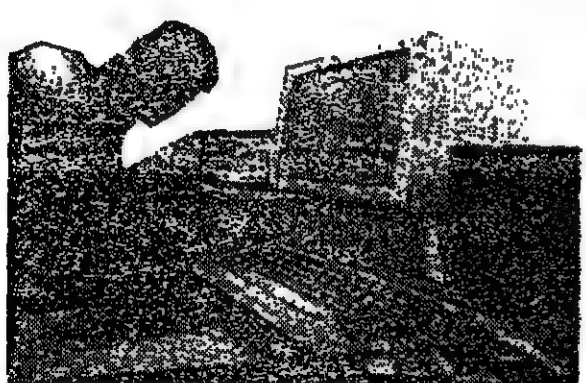
No marks for research work

Companies will argue that long-term investment may dip dividends and you do not get marks on your annual report for research and development. That must be written off as "valueless". "Prudent accounting" requires the application of brainpower to be written off without value or measure, while we happily gaze upon our "assets" - buildings, plant and machinery, patents etc.

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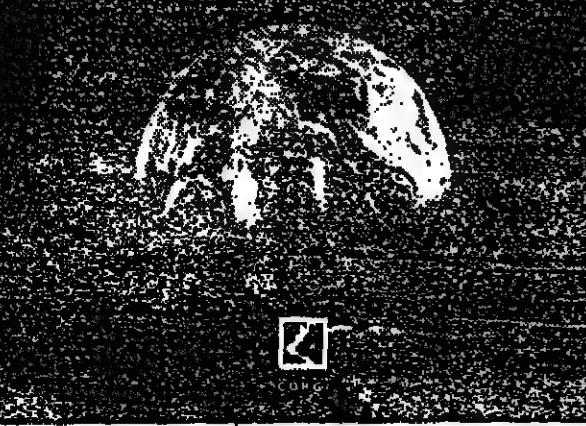


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COMPUTER HORIZONS

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Japanese may regret 'intelligent computer' hype

By David Watts, Tokyo

World experts have been in Tokyo to assess progress in Japan's glamorous fifth generation computer project. And the verdict of British experts is a rather guarded "so far, so good."

The conference was hosted by the Japanese government-backed Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT), developing a computer with the help from the best private sector computer brains.

The image of the Japanese sweeping to success with hardly a backward glance is just as superficial and misleading in the world of computers as it is anywhere else. There may be more single-minded determination to achieve their goals but the Japanese project - announced three years ago - is likely to encounter just as many difficulties as similar projects elsewhere.

Dr Kazuhiro Fuchi, the leading brain behind the Japanese effort, has about 40 people working on the project directly through ICOT and unknown numbers of others working in parallel in the private sector.

The ICOT budget is \$450m (£350m) over ten years compared with the £75m Britain plans to spend over half that time with the Alvey programme. Although Brian Oakley, director of the Alvey programme, feels those figures are "slightly disingenuous" since only four-fifths of the money is fed to Dr Fuchi through ICOT and the 40 staff is by no means the total Japanese effort engaged in fifth generation computer work given the parallel programmes particularly at Nippon Tele-

phone and Telegraph.

Most staff are likely to pose problems for Dr Fuchi, though he acknowledges that money has not been a problem to date. His budget has to be fought for every year as it comes up in an atmosphere governed by need to reduce government expenditures.

The pressure is on Dr Fuchi to produce the goods. "The Japanese may be regretting that they launched the whole thing with such hype partly because it has provoked the competition," said Mr Oakley. "But Dr Fuchi is now under extreme pressure on a time-scale during which he is extremely unlikely to succeed. He's now extremely conscious of the world-wide reputation that has been attracted to him - not necessarily of his own choosing."

So far he has been able to produce the first hardware on time. The project's first personal sequential inference machine went on line just three days before the conference began, but the initial three years was the easy part. It did not break any fundamentally new ground for the ICOT scientists and the major test will come over the second, four-year, element of the ten-year plan.

Mr Oakley reports that the focus of the Japanese programme is a narrow one. ICOT's whole approach is inflexible by British standards, concentrating on a single computer language, Prolog, and aiming immediately at the building up of computer power. "They've chosen a narrow path in parallel processing and they'll get along fast, but it depends whether it's the right road," he said.



Brian Oakley, director of the Alvey Programme, wonders if the Japanese are on the right road to producing the fifth generation computer.

LSE hope game plan will help teenage problems

By Paul Walton

Researchers working on advanced information processing at the London School of Economics are applying for funds to produce a computer game adventure that will help teenagers to come to terms with their own personal image or social problems.

Dr Patrick Humphries explained that some 40 hours' worth of integrated games - the Body Awareness Resource Network (BARN) - programs first designed by a 13-strong team of psychologists and computer scientists at the University of Wisconsin - "address all the worries which

teenagers have about their image, their bodies, sex and so on."

The high-flying decision analysis unit at LSE, more at home producing systems that help interpret political crisis rather than puberty, has applied for a grant to the Nuffield Foundation.

The programs, which incorporate both questions to answer and graphical illustration of what might happen in certain situations, are intended "to help young people become better at making very important decisions," explained Dr Humphries, "perhaps to make them more rational, more moral".

How to avoid software salesman's booby-trap

There are three classes of software - the programs which determine what the computer does - those that sell in their thousands, those in hundreds and those in tens. The more that have been sold and the longer they have been on the market the better chance that they will work satisfactorily.

The first category will be general programs and are a good buy. The consist of word processors, spreadsheets and data bases which have so many users that they almost all run faultlessly, otherwise they would not have sold. Being general programs, they are capable of performing a variety of tasks in the office and are therefore an excellent purchase if you are not sure what you want to do. Spreadsheets for example are so useful in our office, even the accounts department use them.

Programs which sell in their hundreds are usually dedicated to specific applications, such as payroll and estimating. This means that the rules of operation are designed into the program and you can't change them. They work well, but are only of use if the inbuilt rules match up precisely with your office practice. It takes a long time to generate a change in the way you do business and you can be sure that the office manager is not going to accept change simply because your software won't be acceptable without it, although your dealer almost certainly thinks he will.

My first application was payroll and I bought the package - a brand name on the shop's advice without adequate checking. In the event, it accepted wage rates only to three decimal places and rates were in four. The works manager could not possibly be persuaded to negotiate the rate revisions with the shop stewards with all that such bargaining

Computerized business-man Alex Scott continues his advice for those new to the mysteries of microcomputing in the office.

entailed even for a few pence in the wage packet. An hour's discussion with the wages clerk after the payroll run would have exposed the software limitations and given me a few records to use in demonstration.

The software industry has enormous problems with piracy, which leads them to security systems which can give you no end of trouble. It manifests itself in two ways; either the program disk cannot be copied or the program used without some reference to a user serial number. If you are offered a disk which cannot be copied, don't buy it, because if somebody sits on it or uses it as stand for their coffee cup, its going to cost you money and more importantly time to replace it.

When it happened to me I think the dealer sent to California for the replacement, and by the time it returned I had almost forgotten what it was supposed to do.

The serial number method is more subtle and is a delayed action booby trap. In some programs the data files cannot be accessed by other programs which initially might not bother you too much. But having subsequently discovered the power of good operating systems and word processing packages, which are fast in the amendment and updating of large files, it's disconcerting to discover that your package won't give them access. An alternative method is the "dongle", a plug which fits into one of the ports at the back of

your computer, contains your serial number and is referenced from time to time by the program.

If it doesn't find the dongle correctly attached, it stops and won't run. This means that if you have a need to run the same program on two machines you have to buy two packages. Expensive if you're developing a database on one machine while operating on another.

The dealer demonstration is, of course, critical and is only satisfactory if it runs some of your data, whether it be a letter to test a word processor or a few wages cards to try out a payroll program. Never accept a package on the basis of the dealer's data. It will run perfectly if the salesman has done his sums - though most don't. It is too late having accepted the package to discover that it won't do precisely what you want, although it worked well when you tried a similar system.

Having ordered the computer and software, it is essential to have them demonstrated - preferably on the dealer's premises. You must see your application and data disks inserted in the drives and the program menu or banner appear ready for use. To achieve this will only take the dealer an hour, but could take you a week of frustrating searches through manuals.

All of the information you need is somewhere in the manuals, provided you can find, understand and apply it, and have the time. Watch the salesman go through the setting up procedure and don't be afraid to ask questions.

A two day course at your local technical college to learn how to use operating systems is money well spent. You can, of course, wade through the manuals and suffer the constant interruptions of the business day.

Crisis over 'new blood'

JOB SCENE

By Edward Fennell

The Government's attempts to solve the information technology skills shortage by increasing the number of academic lectureships and research posts is being frustrated by the low calibre of candidates for many of these so-called "new blood" vacancies.

In contrast to other appointments in higher education (which are flooded by well-qualified and talented applicants) the advertisements for the IT opportunities seldom produce much interest. When John Butcher's IT skills shortage committee reported in the summer it conceded that one of the major constraints was the availability of teachers. As the report commented: "With the highest salaries currently commanded by experienced staff in industry, the recruitment of teaching staff is already a problem, as evidenced by the relative difficulties experienced by universities in recruiting staff to fill posts under the Department of Education and Science's new blood initiative."

There is cynicism in the colleges with the bitter knowledge that they are trying to fill

the unfillable. At St Andrew's College of Higher Education in Glasgow they are advertising for the third time a lectureship in information technology. As a weary college spokesman said: "We've not had any satisfactory candidates so far and I wouldn't be surprised if we didn't get any this time either. Our IT experts in the college first advised us to advertise in the computer magazines. Now they're advising us against the computer magazines and to advertise elsewhere instead."

Meanwhile at Southampton University (which has one of the strongest reputations in the country for its work in the IT field) they have been trying for some time to attract applicants for the second of its two posts.

The university's staffing department said: "We managed to recruit for the first post from a small field but just couldn't fill the second. It's very frustrating because the post

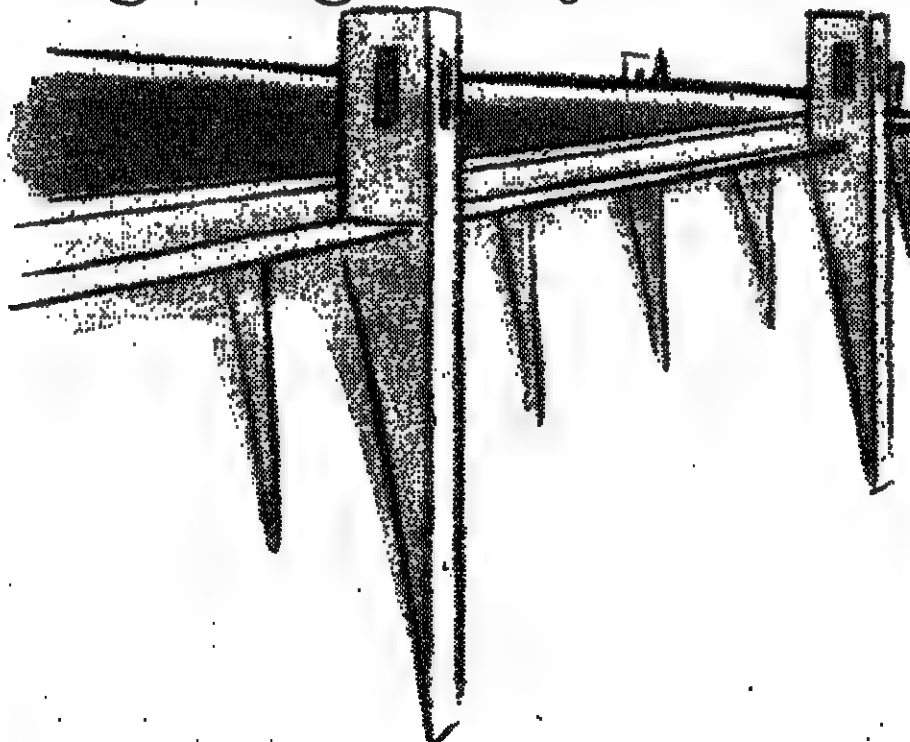
involves very interesting work on optical fibres in collaboration with British Telecom."

The irony is that Telecom (which funds a professorship at the university) is itself fighting hard to attract graduate researchers.

In total 46 IT posts were allocated to British Universities under the new blood scheme for the current academic year, making 116 since the programme started. The University Grants Committee (which makes the allocation) is keen to stress the importance of quality appointments and recommends the institutions to defer filling posts rather than appointing second-rate candidates.

A spokeswoman for the UGC said that they would be reviewing the scheme at the end of the year but their calculations showed that about one third of the jobs were unfilled. Given the inflexibility of the university salary scales, perhaps the only answer is the one recommended by the Butcher Committee - to ask industry to loan highly qualified staff to help in teaching. In other words, if you can't afford to buy them you are forced to borrow.

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£10 million bid to capture office manager market

ICL, the British computer company, has spent £10m developing a combined telephone and personal computer for managers known as the One Per Desk (OPD). The system, built with help from Sinclair Research and the software company Psion, is ICL's attempt to make personal computing acceptable to more senior office workers. The company estimates that only four per cent of British managers actually have personal computers.

The reason for this, according to ICL's managing director Peter Bonfield, is that few personal computers fit in with the way that managers work. Their fidgety style of working leaves them little time to concentrate on a single task. So, like other firms, ICL has tried to design its personal computer so that its users can fit from one program to another. The OPD has four programs, for word processing, graphics, spread sheet and filing, stored in Read Only Memory (ROM). Users can move between these programs, which were written by Psion, with the help of three buttons which start and stop programs and enable users to inspect the applications and data in the OPD.

Data is stored in the system on Sinclair Microdrives, cartridges containing small loops of magnetic tape, which can hold the equivalent of 30 A4 pages of text. Data can also be retrieved from ICL mainframes, from public or private videotape systems and from British Telecom's Gold electronic mail service. The system's keyboard has a telephone handset mounted in it with its own dialling buttons.



This is the machine ICL hope will capture the manager.

Telecom's Gold electronic mail service. The system's keyboard has a telephone handset mounted in it with its own dialling buttons.

The computer is connected to the telephone line by an integral modem. The telephone is also equipped with memory which can hold up to 500 names and numbers, a voice synthesizer which can be used to leave messages and a loud speaker. Calls can be automatically dialled.

ICL believes that in future the majority of office computers will include a telephone like the OPD. Meanwhile, the company sees a British market for 600,000 OPDs. "Two thirds of managers want computer support for graphics, word processing, spread sheet and graphics," says Mr Bonfield.

Prices start at £1,200 for a basic monochrome system rising to £1,800 for a colour system. This competitive pricing has been achieved by the use of microdrives which are much cheaper than the more conventional floppy discs - but they are also subject to some criticism as to their suitability for the robust and consistent use required in business.

The computer show for Olympians

By Geoffrey Ellis

As the Compec exhibition, held at Olympia last week, continues to grow, the actual search for specific information becomes more and more difficult. Despite the automated index on offer.

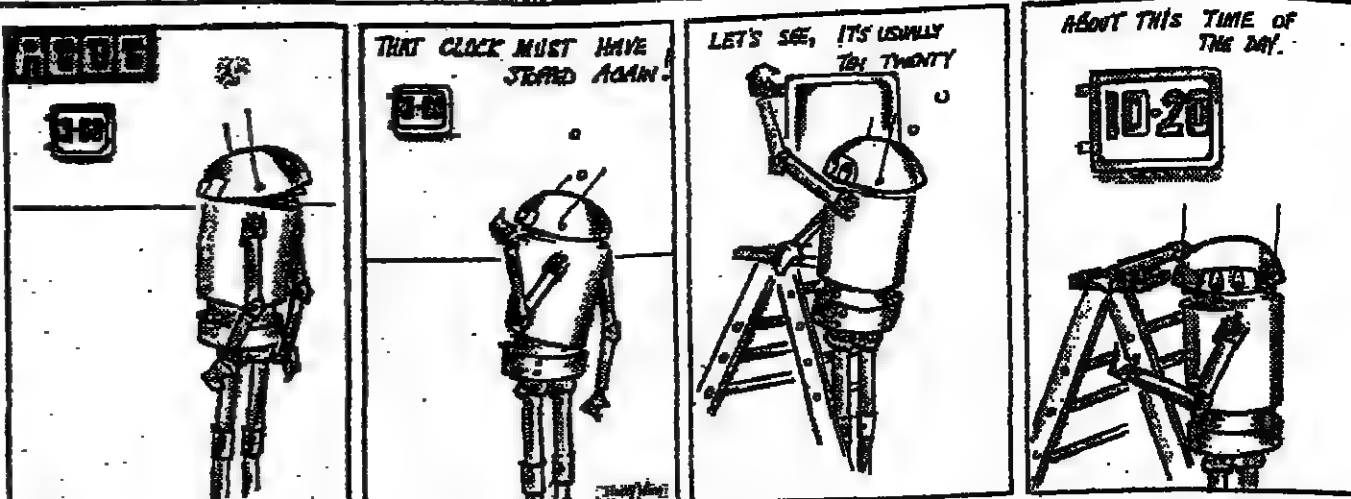
For the hardened exhibition goer, prepared to do battle, not with dragons and witches, but with the usual suspects and space age stands, there was the usual quota of new and not so new technology on display.

The Acorn stand attracted crowds, anxious to see the new ABC business machines. Interest was keen, though prospective buyers were unhappy to find that prices were unavailable.

NEC took advantage of the show to announce a price cut on their PC 8201A lap-held micro, dropping its price to £340, which most place it in a strong position for someone looking for a portable machine to use as a communications terminal and portable word processor. Triumph Adler, part of the giant VAG group, unveiled their new low-cost daisy wheel, selling at £430. It is compatible with most micros, including the IBM, Apple, Sirius and it will run Wordstar.

The Eastern bloc, represented by Hungary, were showing software from three companies, offering packages for a variety of computers ranging from mainframes to micros. West Germany and Austria form the bulk of business for the Hungarians, but they are now taking the British market seriously and are adopting a more aggressive sales posture.

The low-cost Sanyo MBC650 series of machines are being extended, by the addition of two new models, offering higher capacity, taking storage on the twin-drive model to 720KB for a cost of £1,600.



There is nothing new on the way to hold up your Christmas shopping

By Geoff Wheelwright

There are no spoilers this Christmas in the home computer market. Unlike any other year since the home computer claimed a firm place in the public's Christmas buying plans, there are no new about-to-be-released machines which will put people off buying until next year.

Last year, it was the imminent release of the IBM PC junior and the Coloco Adam in the US and the imminent availability of the Acorn Electron in the UK which gave many people pause for thought in buying a computer at Christmas. Even then - established models such as the Sinclair Spectrum and BBC Model B were thin on the ground - and many people either waited until after Christmas or got their second choice machine.

And those second-choice machines appeared to be Commodore's aging VIC-20 and the equally antiquated Sinclair ZX81, which were shipped off the shelves in record numbers. Even then the recently discontinued such as Matel's Aquarius and Texas Instruments' TI-99/4A sold in comparatively big numbers as people couldn't get hold of anything else.

This Christmas, the story is different. The IBM PC junior did poorly when it arrived in the US (it never even made the leap to the UK) and the Adam is now

sitting in bargain bins on both sides of the Atlantic. There are far fewer players in the micro market and they are either fat and firmly established or scraping by and hoping that Christmas will provide the financial miracle which will let them survive another year.

Commodore, Acorn and Sinclair are among the former, while the newly-purchased Atari corporation is among the latter. None of the companies have announced the release of any new

Spectrum+, but it's just a slightly repackaged Spectrum with a real keyboard that sells for £50 extra.

The bulk of the Christmas market battle is taking place with machines such as Atari's 800XL - which at £169 sells for almost half the price it did last year - and Commodore's 64, which is heavily discounted by retailers, although the recommended price still sits close to £300.

There's also a big movement toward "building in value" instead of price-cutting. Both Acorn and Sinclair have added some bundled cassette software to the base price of their best sellers, the BBC and Spectrum, respectively. And Acorn has also thrown in a cassette recorder in the BBC package - presumably because its biggest price competitors, the Amstrad machines and the Sinclair QL, both have built-in storage devices (a cassette recorder on the Amstrads and two microdrives on the QL).

But even with the discounts and "extras", the Christmas market will still be the single-biggest money-spinner for any of the major home computer companies. Though none would want to see the kind of price war that left so many companies bruised and battered after yuletide 1983, there's no doubt that bigger market share figures are on all their Christmas wish lists.

COMPUTERS for CHRISTMAS: A Special Report will appear in The Times on Thursday

machines they don't expect to have before Christmas. And the big concentration seems to be on selling old machines cheaply and clearing stock, rather than heavily promoting new machines. Yes Commodore has released the C-16 and Plus 4 - but C-16 just takes over the spot vacated by the VIC-20 and Plus-4 "tests the water" in the serious home market and provides Commodore with a machine to advertise against the Sinclair QL. Sinclair has also launched the

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Micros not capable of meeting demands for training

By Phil Manchester

The market for computer-based training in the UK is growing at a rate of 35 per cent per annum with a forecast value of £138 million by 1987, according to a survey by Intra Systems. The market is almost evenly split between educational and industrial training applications (£63 million to £75 million) and there is a growing trend for hardware and software suppliers to include "edu-

cational" software with their products.

IBM's recently announced personal computer, the AT, included a tutorial called "Exploring the IBM Personal Computer AT" as part of the package.

The use of computers in education and training is already big business but it is trivial in comparison with what is on the way. Roger Llewellyn, managing director of the training company Wicat, notes that the British Army spends around 10 per cent of its budget on training and is anxious to find ways of cutting the cost. There is also a growing trend to regard computers as a way of cutting schools and college education costs.

Various government initiatives aimed at putting micros in schools have been aimed more at the use of computers in teaching "students about computers, rather than using them as a basis for general education. There are doubts whether micros are appropriate for basic education and in the United States, where the use of computers in education is more advanced than in the UK, they are now considering the best approach.

Immediate impact

"In our experience the problems that people see in advance of the introduction of computer based training aids are less than half of the problems that they actually encounter in practice," says Mr Llewellyn. He adds that the

immediate impact of computers is going to be in industrial training but he does not believe that will be achieved with personal microcomputers because they are not capable of the level required.

There is interest in using personal computers for computer-aided education and training and a number of products are available for the Apple and the BBC micro.

The National Computing Centre has produced a comprehensive overview of available systems and current case histories in the training area. It covers the application of computers from training clerks in credit card procedures at Barclays Bank to training flight navigation in the RAF.

Mesmerised by mystique

One pressing problem is providing the facilities to develop comprehensive training courses using computers. These are prepared using so-called "authoring" systems (Supercopilot and Combat are examples) which are special-purpose programming languages geared to the needs of course preparation. The more powerful systems, such as CDC's Plato and the Wicat systems, require large computers.

Elwyn Rees, a training consultant, is concerned that the market could attract inexperienced developers with a lack of understanding of the evolution of educational technology. "Hosts of teachers on the one hand seem mesmerised by the mystique and are being successfully courted on all sides by instant experts with their eyes on the main chance".

Stopping break-ins

The recent accounts of the dangers and apparent ease with which unauthorised access to computers is gained is likely to provide a boost in the interest for a new data protection system from Berkshire-based Steebek Systems. Called Horatius the system will, claim its inventors, "completely deny access to the computer in question to unauthorised persons".

It offers different levels of security including modems with unique identity codes that cannot be modified by users, a facility where the Horatius unit disconnects the system while it "thinks" access authority and then automatically phones back and, at the highest level, the encryption of transmitted data. According to managing director Bob Jones, "we've arrived at a solution which is external to the computer itself and which therefore does not occupy costly computer time in access verification".

Interactive audio system. Tandberg, the Norwegian firm specialising in language laboratory equipment and Mast Learning Systems, a London-based firm which produces computer-based training packages, are involved in a pilot study to perfect a program which develops "computer-friendliness" in trainees. The personal computer operated by a trainee is linked to a recorder running a simple cassette on which is recorded a set of instructions. The program directs the cassette to ask the trainee to carry out simple functions using the computer's keyboard. The interaction occurs when the trainee makes a mistake. The program relays this back to the tape, which will vocally correct the trainee who continues to carry out the transaction until he or she gets it right.

ICL is testing its program Personnel 20 for trainees in personnel management on an interactive audio system. But many features have to be sorted out before such a program could be marketed and the research is in its infancy.

Japan's largest electronic parts manufacturers, Alpine Electronics, hopes to increase its sales growth by selling car components that use

COMPUTER BRIEFING

fibres optics for the computerised and digital car of the future. Alex Romanov, vice president, said: "Based on population, Canadians seem to want high-end car audio systems, no matter their income or regional background." And company officials predicted that the use of fibre-optics in car electronic systems will triple in the next five years. In the not-too-distant future, the company contends, a car will have one central electronic nervous system that ties everything together at the dashboard. "These products," said Mr Romanov, "will perform many new and more complicated functions, such as monitoring the climate in a car, engine performance, a car's ride, permit sophisticated communications and, perhaps, one day, navigate."

Wang is bringing down the cost of its own deluxe word processing system to attract small businesses and will for the first time also offer an IBM PC-compatible version of its Professional Computer (PC). At this week's Computer in the City exhibition Wang will unveil a 4-terminal office automation system, based on a VS15 minicomputer, for £15,000. Each terminal shares functions like Wang word processing, 512K of disc storage and a 33 megabyte hard disk. The following week the company shows

off its latest microcomputer peripherals and software. A board that allows its PC to run the older release of IBM PC DOS 2.0 will cost a new machine. There will also be PC to IBM data communications software, graphics cards and some fancy peripherals like a cheap laser printer on show.

One of the men who helped launch the Splinter during the Second World War is to lead a new American computer attack on Europe. Mr Albert Smith, part of the Splinter design team in 1937, has been made MCS chief in Europe. Before joining the Americans, Mr Smith was with British Aircraft Corporation, MCS - Manufacturing and Consulting Services - are setting up European headquarters in Andover, Hampshire.

UK events

Penwith Computer Club Exhibition, St. Pauls Old School, Penzance, November 24
Int'l Exposition for Technology Transfer, Metropole Hotel, Brighton, November 27-30
Electron & BBC Users' Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London SW1, December 6-9
CAD/CAM, Int'l Show, NEC, Birmingham, Jan 6-10
High Technology & Computers in Education, Barbican, London, J. 23-25

Which Computer?, NEC, Birmingham, Jan 15-18

Overseas events
Computer China, Xiamen, China, November 25-December 1
DEXPO West, Anaheim, USA, December 11-14

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The bell rings for British Telecom

Today the chips are down for the British Telecom issue, unique in both size and shape in the history of the London Stock Exchange. There is every indication that there will be more than enough chips for the issue to be judged a success.

For the merchant banks and brokers who had to gauge the market and price the issue; for the advertising and public relations firms who have created an unprecedented awareness of a share issue and a degree of warmth toward it that cynics did not believe was possible; for the Treasury in whose ears the proceeds (£3.9 billion) make divine music; and for the Government whose twin political objectives of privatisation and wider share ownership are greatly served by it. After the British Telecom issue, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for a future Labour Government, if there is one, to roll back the private sector or deny the buyers of shares in denationalised corporations the return on their savings and the rewards for their risk-taking that is their due.

There are two ways of looking at British Telecom shares. If one judges them with their telephone vouchers and/or free share bonus attached, they are unquestionably an irresistible investment at 130p a share. Not totally without risk of course, but almost.

The other way of looking at the stock is as a straightforward share, priced at 130p, standing on a price/earnings ratio of 9.35 and promising a dividend yield of 7.14 per cent. There is scope here for more argument about the share's merits. In a nutshell, as my colleague Jonathan Davis put it last Friday: "Is British Telecom a high tech growth business" - in which case the shares are cheap - "or a plodding utility?" If the latter, then the shares too will, at best, plod too.

British Telecom will have only itself to blame if it does not succeed in transmitting its enormous monopoly strengths in the United Kingdom market and its incalculable opportunities in the burgeoning telecommunications market into gold.

For the foreseeable future, government regulation, ostensibly to protect the consumer, will sit lightly on BT's back, such competition that is allowed will be deliberately reined in; and the price-cutting power BT has to repel any competition, particularly in special services, is such that it would probably expand the total market and not merely restore BT's share of it.

The problems with BT are basically two. For all the progress an essentially new management has made so far, the management is still largely non-proven. Secondly, BT, especially in its domestic telephone network service, is inefficient. It is appallingly overmanned and has had no experience of making the labour economies it must make to justify a growth rating.

Expectations that BT shares will fly are probably premature. The stock market has been heavily massaged to help the launch - a process that will obviously not continue. But general market movements aside, the downside risk at 130p is very small and the prospects, however soberly assessed, are good enough to justify an investment, appropriate to individual circumstances, in this unique stock exchange vehicle.

Currys resorts to Tilling's defence

The Currys/Dixons bid battle took a new turn yesterday as a fresh bidder for the High Street retailer emerged - Curry itself. This is the effective impact of the group's mooted capital reconstruction involving the formation of a new holding company, Currys Holdings.

Existing Currys shareholders will receive shares in the new holding company on a one-for-one basis, plus a capital sum of 150 in cash which, as the offer document states, represents a transfer direct to shareholders of a major part of the value of Currys's property portfolio. The cash outlay of some £71 million will be funded via sale and leaseback of the property portfolio, which is now valued at £134 million.

The Currys board also forecasts a significant improvement in 1984-85 profits, compared with the estimated £26 million up to the end of October this year; an effective improvement in the dividend of 51.4 per cent; and an aggressive expansion programme over the next two years. Currys bids fair to rise like a phoenix from the ashes of its threatened self.

The snap reaction by Currys's shareholders to the second defence document

must be one of relief. In theory, the cash offer of £1.50 ought to provide a prop to the Currys's shareprice which might, assuming that Dixon's offer fails, fall back sharply to the 248p-or-so level at which it was languishing before the bid. Currys's share price closed last night at 484p, down 13p.

Old City takeover hands, however, must feel a slight sense of déjà vu when they survey the new terms. The idea of making a capital distribution to shareholders is remarkably reminiscent of the tactics deployed by Warburg, acting for Currys, in the Thomas Tilling defence to the BTR bid, when Tilling shareholders were offered some 52p in cash from the sale of Cornhill Insurance. Not only did the defence fail, but Tilling subsequently failed to meet its projected profit.

The Currys/Dixons bid battle may not go the same way, but the idea of making a capital distribution to shareholders focuses on the issue underlying the struggle: management. The Dixons camp alleges that it can manage the Currys assets better, and last night condemned the move as a desperate bid by Currys to break up the group.

It alleged further that by suggesting such a distribution Currys was publicly recognizing its inability to earn a proper return on its assets. But the Currys board reckons that even after the cash payment it has enough management strength to move ahead sharply.

The Dixons offer closes on Friday and the institutions will likely leave their decision until the last moment. It is also quite likely their decision will tip the scales of the bid outcome.

Guinness Peat in frost and fen

In a little more than a year, five directors of Guinness Peat have left or have indicated that they intend to leave: Dr Giorgio Rossi, Mr Robert Kissin, Mr Graham Hill and now Mr Albert Frost, who joined only on January 1 as chairman of Guinness Mahon, GP's banking subsidiary, with a service contract running to the end of 1986, and Mr Richard Fenhalls, who joined originally as chief executive of Guinness Mahon in November 1981. A sixth director, Mr Mark Hoffman, is expected to leave in the not distant future.

He may not be the last to go (Mr Richard Caine has reached the ripe age of 70 years) but he would be the last of the departed directors who have not seen eye to eye with Mr Alastair Morton, who came as group chief executive in January 1982 with the blessing of Mr David Walker, a director of the Bank of England, and has proceeded to remake Guinness Peat in his own image.

Mr Morton comprehensively replaced Mr Edmund Dell, the former Labour cabinet minister, who presided over the Guinness Peat debacle which is written in the 1981 and 1982 accounts. Mr Morton also succeeded, against considerable odds, in diluting the voting power of founder Lord Kissin (now less than 10 per cent), who left the board in 1979 but who remains as president.

Mr Morton has not pretended that his work is finished, although he appears to have steered Guinness Peat back into the black. As group chief executive, he had less than a fulltime job while Guinness Mahon remained, at the instigation of Mr Fenhalls and the Bank of England, outside his working orbit, and Mr Geoffrey Knight, in the many ways the most remarkable figure on the board, was in sole control of the profitable Fenchurch Insurance subsidiary.

The suspicion that Mr Fenhalls has been less successful, especially in the bank's offshore activities, than everyone had hoped may have given Mr Morton his chance to complete the group "restructuring" close of his heart.

However, not even Mr Morton would claim to be a banker of the first rank (his experience at Drayton had mixed reviews) and formally he will be the bank's executive deputy chairman, with the former Whitehall mandarin Lord Croham, the group chairman he brought in, doubling up as bank chairman. Mr Bruce Ursell, a minor figure in banking, has been made managing director but not a main board director.

How these latest moves affect the credibility of Guinness Peat and the standing of Guinness Mahon remains to be seen. Mr Morton, at least, has arrived at the position where he may claim all the credit, or must shoulder all the blame, for what is effectively now his own creation.

Barclays leads clearers with cut in base rate to 9.75%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Barclays Bank cut its base rate from 10 to 9.75 per cent yesterday. This marked the first return to single-figure base rates since the "crisis" of July, when a run on sterling and poor money supply figures forced base rates up from 9.25 per cent to 12 per cent in less than a week.

Although a reduction in base rates had been expected this week, the Barclays move came as something of a surprise. It was in line with Barclays' occasionally used formula linking base rates to the three-month interbank rate. The expectation is still for a general cut in base rates to 9.5 per cent before the end of the week, with the other three big clearing banks lagging over the Barclays reduction.

The Bank of England endorsed the Barclays move by cutting the dealing rates in the

two bill bands in which it was active by a ¼ point.

Barclays reduced its deposit rate from 6.75 to 6.5 per cent, and its home mortgage rate from 12.5 to 12.125 per cent.

The trimming of base rates by Barclays came as the pound ran up against a stronger dollar on the foreign exchanges, losing 1.1 cents on the day to \$1.2485. The sterling index fell 0.4 to 76.0.

However, sterling weakness was a straight reflection of dollar strength, the pound gaining slightly against the Continental currencies.

Personal incomes in the US are estimated to have risen by 0.6 per cent in October, after a 0.7 per cent rise in September. Even so, consumer spending declined by 0.1 per cent in October after a 1.7 per cent September increase. Dealers attributed the dollar's

BASE RATES, 1984	
	Per cent
January 1	9
March 7	8.75-9
March 15	8.5-8.75
May 10	8.25
June 27	9.25
July 8	10
July 11	12
August 9	11.5
August 10	11
August 20	10.5
November 7	10
November 19	9.75-10

strength yesterday to the belief that the fall in US interest rates may have come to an end and that the Federal Reserve may not now reduce the discount rate.

The dollar gained nearly 3 pence against the mark to DM2.9920, within reach of the important DM3 levels.

Final figures for US gross national product in the third quarter are released today, and are expected to show a rise of around 2.5 per cent. Official gross domestic product figures issued yesterday for Britain confirmed that output remains flat in the economy.

The gross domestic product (output) data for the third quarter showed a 0.2 per cent rise over the second quarter.

The miners' strike is estimated to have reduced GDP by 1.25 per cent in the July-September period. In the first three months of the year, it reduced GDP by 0.5 per cent.

Output GDP in the third quarter was 1 per cent up on the corresponding period of 1983. Without the miners' strike, official statisticians say, it would have been up by nearly 2.5 per cent.

Hambros sells US oil interests

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Hambros, the merchant banking group, has sold its long-making oil and gas interests in the United States in a deal which brings in almost no cash but avoids further write-offs.

The group's 58.9 per cent stake in Hambro Gas & Oil (HGO) has been sold to InterNorth, an American company, which is buying all of HGO.

The sale of the US energy interests is the final stage in the clean-up of the group's balance sheet, which has involved huge provisions in recent years against shipping interests as well as write-downs on the energy side.

Hambros first went into energy exploration in the US in 1981 and its total investment reached about £27 million. But last year, it wrote off £18.7



Charles Hambro: little cash left from the sale

million of this and the book value of the oil and gas leases now stands at £6.7 million after adjusting for trading losses of about £1.6 million since the group's end-March year-end. Under the deal with InterNorth, Hambros, whose chair-

man is Mr Charles Hambro, is having to buy back certain energy leases and assets worth \$1.8 million which the purchaser does not want. The merchant banking group will receive only \$1.2 million net for its stake in HGO and most of that will have to be used to offset against certain other liabilities it is being left with.

However, tax relief is expected more than to cover any shortfall on the present book value of the HGO stake and Hambros said yesterday that no after-tax loss was expected on the deal.

Hambros will still be left with significant interests in the energy field outside the United States.

In the year to end-March, Hambros reported after tax profits of £12.3 million compared with £14.7 million the previous year. The shares rose 2p to 148p yesterday.

Fraser may call meeting to oust Lonrho men

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho looks set for another clash with the House of Fraser stores group. Despite a formal request to resign, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, made it clear last night that neither he nor Lord Duncan-Sandys, Lonrho's chairman, would go from the Fraser board voluntarily.

Fraser's directors are due to meet on Thursday. The board is almost certain to call a special shareholders' meeting to oust the two Lonrho representatives if the matter is not settled beforehand.

A spokesman for Fraser said: "We would like to settle this quietly. We have said nothing publicly in the past week so as not to inflame any situation. But the question of the board directors will be on the agenda on Thursday."

Lonrho now holds only six million Fraser shares (4.5 per cent) having sold a 29.9 per cent stake almost four weeks ago to the Al-Fayed Investment and Trust company owned by the Egyptian businessman Messers Mohamed, Salah and Ali Al-Fayed.

The Al-Fayed brothers want two representatives on the board but will not join until the Lonrho directors are gone. They have assured Fraser directors of their backing when it comes to a shareholders' vote. With such a sizable stake it is unlikely that Lonrho could muster sufficient shares to outvote the Al-Fayeds and other institutions loyal to the Fraser board.

However, observers point out that a test of the Al-Fayed's support for Fraser might be demonstrated by their requisitioning the special shareholders' meeting to oust Lonrho rather than just supporting a vote at a meeting convened by the Fraser board.

Meanwhile, the Office of Fair Trading is still studying whether the Al-Fayed's stake has any merger implications or falls within any section of the Competition Act.

£80m loan provision at Grindlays

By Our Banking Correspondent

Grindlays Bank, the international banking group, has provisioned £80m against loans to sovereign borrowers in its latest accounts.

The provision has been made to bring Grindlays into line with the more conservative provisioning policies of its new parent, ANZ, which yesterday reported an increase in annual after-tax profits from A 198m to A 269m (£184m).

ANZ's results do not include Grindlays since the deal was only finalized in September. However ANZ has written off the goodwill arising from the Grindlays purchase which amounts to A 115m (£79m).

When ANZ announced its bid for Grindlays in June it appeared to be paying only £23m in goodwill. The much higher figure revealed yesterday is explained by the huge extra provision which Grindlays is now making.

The bank was being stressed yesterday that ANZ was not surprised at the scale of extra provisions needed at Grindlays to bring it into line with the parent bank and the £80m figure was described as consistent with ANZ's estimates.

However, the sums involved come as a surprise to outsiders. Grindlays results for the nine months to September 30 show a profit before special items of £11m compared with a £26m profit in the previous 12 months. Profits were struck after doubtful debt provisions of £17.8m compared with £19.1m.

After charging the special £80m transfer to general provisions, the bank's profit of £15m (the previous year) Grindlays made a loss before tax of £69m and a net loss of £52m.

At the end of September ANZ injected £75m of extra capital into Grindlays to bring capital and reserves up to £181m. Total capital including subordinated debt amounted to £432m while total assets were £549 billion. *Tempos, page 20*

Booker McConnell plans £30m acquisitions

By Jeremy Warner

Booker McConnell, the agricultural and food group, is spending £23 million to expand its fast-growing agribusiness division. It is also seeking shareholders' approval to spend a further £7 million on unspecified acquisitions ahead of the Government's decision, expected in January, on whether Dee Corporation should be allowed to renew its takeover bid for Booker. The £233 million offer has been under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since June.

Speculation was growing last night that Mr Williams "John" Bishop was about to resign from the investigation.

Mr Vasant Advani, Grovobell chairman and joint managing director, said last night: "Mr Bishop is a director of the company at this moment. There are nine directors on the board, eight of them are entitled to write their letter of resignation at any time."

Mr Bishop was unavailable for comment last night.

SR Gent blames mild autumn for poor first half

S R Gent, the clothing manufacturer which sells 90 per cent of its turnover to Marks & Spencer, says that half-year profits to the end of December will be disappointing.

The mild autumn weather is to blame, the company says. Retailers, including Marks & Spencer, Burton and Evans, decided at the end of October to cut prices to get stocks moving and S R Gent has been asked to bear its share of these cuts. The company is, however, reasonably confident of the prospects for the second half and has promised to maintain the dividend.

Sales so far this year are up by 9 per cent in Britain but below the company's targets. In 1983-84 Gent made taxable profits of £6.1m. The shares fell 2p to 158p yesterday.

Ex-Asda chief lifts Cullen's stake

By Alison Eadie

Cullen's Stores, the loss-making family grocery chain, recommended a £6.64 million bid from three former Imperial executives' company, Natling (105), at 375p and 275p. Mr Fletcher held discussions with the Cullen's board last week and both St Paul's and Watling were well aware of each other's existence. Watling's plan is to turn the 100 Cullen's shops in the Greater London area into late-night convenience stores selling everything from newspapers and tobacco to cosmetics, food and drink.

Although Mr Fletcher is unwilling to unveil what plans he has for Cullen's before he reveals whether or not he will bid, he said he thinks it unnecessary to wipe out the old business.

Mr Fletcher, whose contract of employment with Asda was abruptly terminated last May



after three years in the job and who received £111,875 in compensation, made his name in food retailing with Oris Foods.

The Watling bid, backed by a consortium of institutions to the tune of £9 million and with acceptances for 21.4 per cent of

the shares from the family and pension fund shareholders, is pushing ahead undaunted with its offer document. It has still to secure the agreement of Mr David Cullen, a former director who holds about 20 per cent of the equity.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Fletcher will get the money needed to top Watling's bid, or whether he will be content to push up the bid price and emerge with a handsome profit.

It also remains to be seen whether any more potential bidders are flushed out. Mr Lew Carter, the creator of Carter Superfoods which is now part of Tesco, is generally thought to be out of the running, although he was interested at one point.

Lobbying at Dunlop

Small shareholders of Dunlop Holdings will meet executive directors of the company today for the first time since their campaign to be heard started two years ago.

The Dunlop Shareholders' Association was formed to see that both small shareholders and employees were adequately represented during a capital reconstruction designed to save the company from its £385 million debts to 46 international bankers.

Three small shareholders, Mr Edward Stevens, Professor Robert Pritchard and Mr Malcolm Gee, will meet Mr Robin Biggam, Dunlop's financial director and Mr Roger Holmes, who is responsible for strategic planning and communications.

The association has sought support from all share holders with more than 5,000 shares. After a fortnight, the group now holds proxies for more than 2 million shares. Its target is to gain support from those with 15 million shares - representing 10 per cent of the Dunlop equity.

Shareholders fear that their holdings will be diluted by about 75 per cent under the restructuring plan whereby the bankers would convert £250 million-worth of short-term debt into equity.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1167.4 down 6.1 (high: 1167.5; low: 1162.8)
FT Index: 919.1 down 0.5
FT Gilts: 83.14 down 0.19
FT All Share: 552.83 down 2.0
Bargains: 20.11
Outstanding US\$ London Index: 105.44 unchanged
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1,188.16 up 0.22
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,284.21 up 29.50
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1,067.61 down 4.13
Amsterdam: 174.5 down 3.2

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling index: 76.0 down 0.4 (range 75.1-76.0)
\$1.2485 down 1.10 cents
DM 3.7375 up 0.0025
FF 11.4575 down 0.01
Yen 304 down 1.0

SOLAR
Index: 139.8 up 0.8
DM 2.9920 up 0.0280
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2515
Dollar DM 2.9872
ECU £0.597813
SDR £0.78651

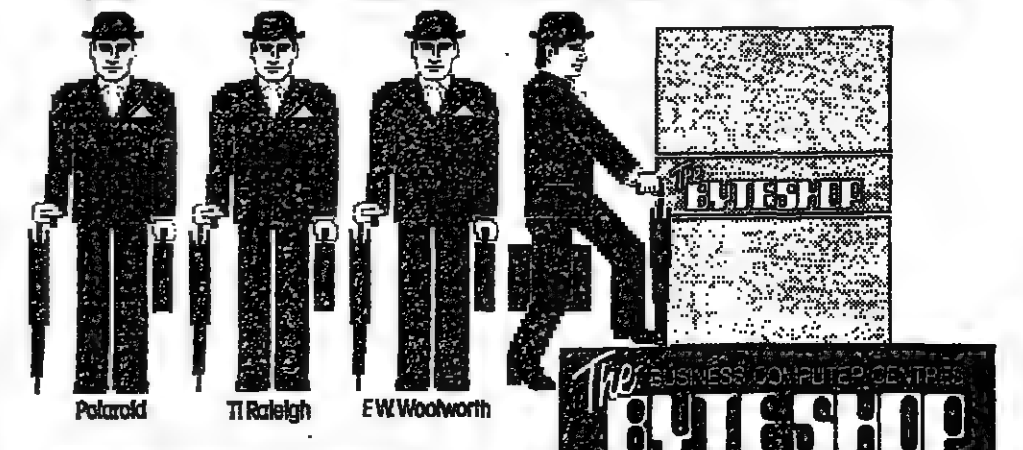
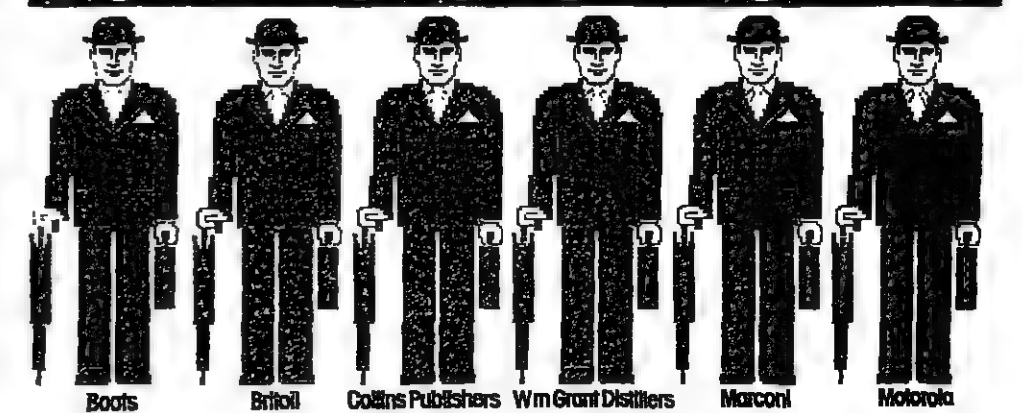
INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 10-9%
Finance houses base rate 11
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/4 - 9 1/2%
3 month DM 5 1/4 - 5 1/2%
3 month FF 5 1/4 - 5 1/2%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.75%
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 10 1/2%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 6 to November 6 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$343.30
close \$342.22 (74)
New York (late): \$343.10
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$352 - \$353.50 (282 - 283.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$80.75 - \$1.75 (\$61.75 - \$65.75)
*Excludes VAT

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

The wonder starts to return as Woolies hits 563p peak

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Woolworths Holdings, the once ailing High Street chain stores group now being revitalized by a team led by Mr John Beckett, was the star turn of a dull stock market yesterday.

The shares jumped 20p to a peak of 563p, an advance which captivated chartists who immediately started talking about further substantial price progress.

Speculation that the group had more property sales in the pipeline was one factor behind the strong share price. Another was a meeting, due today, between Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee, the broker, and the top men at the B & Q do-it-yourself side of Woolworths.

The chartists, however, were particularly impressed by the Woolworths break-out above the previous peak of 550p, a level which had seemed the group's sticking point.

Woolworths is a narrow market and there was not much stock around. One buyer apparently picked up most of what was there.

Mr Robin Griffiths, chartist at Griesonson Grant, the broker, believes that the Woolworths upside is now at least £2 with a downside potential of about 10p. He said: "It's a crystal clear chart break-out".

Mr Beckett, formerly of the British Sugar Corporation, was drafted into Woolworths, with the object of putting some wonder back into the business, by a group of City institutions in 1982. The City consortium bid 82p for each Woolworths share. There was also a share and loan stock offer. Most shareholders opted for the cash.

Equities remained overshadowed by the British Telecom flotation. Even so, in thin trading, prices staged a firm recovery.

At one stage the FT 30 share index was down 8.2 points. By the close the index had cut its deficit to a mere 0.9 points at 919.1.

The FTSE share index had a much less impressive turnaround. At one time it was 10.3

points lower. By the close it had cut the fall to 6.1 points at 1,114.4 points.

The Barclays Bank base rate cut helped the recovery. But the market was a little mystified by the amount of the reduction: at least half-a-point had been expected. The failure of the other High Street clearing banks to follow Barclays immediately, dampened enthusiasm.

Tate & Lyle gained rising 12p to 433p. Market men still talk of a bid on the way for the sugar and funds group, with Dalgety named as possible buyer.

Trading volume in the shares was moderate, and jobbers reported fair business but no clear signs of a single

United Leasing, sold by tender last year at 140p, rose 5p to 250p. The company, which is a

yearly. Mr Peter Bishop, analyst at Laurie Milbank, the broker, believes the shares are a buy and suggests present year's profits could be £5.8 million with £8 million in the following year.

buyers. The Tate share price is now 60p higher than in mid-July, just before Tate's own, unsuccessful bid for Brooke Bond.

Lacis Industries Shares continue their strong run, adding 8p to 268p despite early slippage. City men believe the shares are due to hit 300p after better-than-expected full-year results was announced a week ago.

P & O Group registered the market trend, rising 4p to 306p on talk of rationalization of its shipping operations. Trafalgar House, erstwhile bidders for P & O and competitor in the cruise ships business is reckoned to be talking with P & O. Trafalgar House shares fell 4p to 306p.

TI Group, who last week got a boost from takeover rumours, held relatively firm, 2p lower at 234p.

Brickmakers took a knock from weekend reports of another government inquiry into the industry in the offing.

Several pence were chipped off the share prices of the industry leaders. Hanson Trust and Istock Johnsons the former losing 5p to 265p and the latter 8p down to 238p at one stage.

But the Office of Fair Trading says no new investigation or report is being put together. "We are monitoring delivery prices for bricks, but that is not new. We have been keeping an eye on prices since the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report on the sector in 1979."

In the insurance sector, share prices dipped in early trade, still feeling the effects of last week's poor third quarter results from Commercial Union. Even Royal Insurance, however, was much in favour last week and to be the best profits but in the sector, lost 5p to 515p, having been 5p lower at 511p at one time.

Among life insurers, prices were also soggy. Hambro Life, recent star of the lists on takeover rumours, fell 5p to 448p as buying enthusiasm melted. Sun Life, another bid favourite not so long ago, dropped 10p to 689p.

Spot oil prices sank a few cents lower again and took shares in the industry with them. City men are waiting anxiously for news of the usual seasonal increase in demand for fuel, which has been delayed by the mild weather. Some anxious looks are also being cast toward next month's meeting of Opec, when the constant problem of prices and quotas will get its next airing.

By BP held up well, shrugging off an early market move to 4p better to 505p. Market men are still impressed by the recent third-quarter earnings results, and looking forward to the full-year figure, which is expected to be around £1.375 million against £1.300 million in 1983.

Royal Dutch moved sharply in the opposite direction, down 70p to 406p. London stock brokers have been firmly advising both British and overseas investors to switch to British equivalents, such as

Shell, and the effects are showing, although Shell found the sector markdown difficult to resist. The shares dipped 10p to 633p.

Lasmo kept its firm front, losing only a 2p fall to 356p as investors stayed interested in the group's overseas drilling programme and market rumours of a stake being built up.

Mr David Kirch, the Channel Islands-based property entrepreneur, continues to build his shareholding in Leisuretime International, the timeshare and holiday group. Yesterday he disclosed that his stake had climbed to a shade below 20 per cent.

Expect Belhaven Brewery, the Dundee group headed by Mr Nazim Virani, to return to the dividend list soon. An interim payment is likely to accompany sharply improved interim figures. It will be the company's first dividend since 1979.

Leisuretime, which is related to the Aitken Hume financial group, was unchanged at 61p.

Mr Kirch already controls two property companies, Dollar Land Holdings and 'Chertwell' Hotels and Properties. Shares of both are traded under the special dealings facility rule and the market suspects that Mr Kirch wants to merge them with Leisuretime.

Comfort Hotels International lost 1p to 67p as Imperial Life Assurance of Canada reduced its holding in the shares. Imperial now has less than 5 per cent of Comfort.

Intasun Leisure, the holiday group, has a known 14.97 per cent of Comfort and is believed to have bought some of its shares from Imperial previously.

Brown Shipley, the merchant bank and fund management group, gained 5p to 443p as the United Kingdom Provident Institution revealed an increased holding of 10.33 per cent.

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● PERSONAL ASSETS TRUST: Half-year to Oct 31. Figs. £a £000. Total rev. income 92 (£80). Pre-tax revenue 41 (£71).

● CONCENTRIC: Year to Sept. 30. Final 221p, making 3,48p (3,31p). Figs. in £000. Sales 51,460 (44,173). Pre-tax profit 1,624 (1,314).

● HOGGETT & BOWERS: Year to Aug. 31. Figs. in £000. Turnover 3,047 (2,573). Pre-tax profit 639 (114).

● ADDISON COMMUNICATIONS: Has acquired Tary Graphics, computer typesetting specialists, for £14,000 cash. This is Addison's first acquisition since joining the USM last month.

● C. H. PEARCE: The chairman Mr G. T. Pearce says in his annual statement that the group has sufficient orders and contracts in hand in the current year to enable it to maintain profits similar to 1983-84.

● GREAT PORTLAND ESTIMATES: Reports interim pre-tax revenue of £8.2m compared with the 1983 figure of £7.52m. Gross rental income rose to £2.99m, from £2.45m, in the half-year to Sept. 30. The dividend remains unchanged at 1p a share.

● INTERNATIONAL SIGNAL & CONTROL GROUP: Six months to end of September (US dollars). Turnover \$123.5m (\$86.4m). Pre-tax profit \$14.0m (\$8.3m). America divided one cent (same). Latest period reflects a full contribution from the Marquardt company, while comparable period takes in only seven weeks.

● DIT GROUP, one of Britain's leading microcomputer maintenance companies who came to the United States Market in July, reports record pre-tax profits for the six month period ended September 30. Pre-tax profits rose by 28 per cent to £145,000 on turnover up 59 per cent to £2.61 million.

● ANGLONORDIC HLDS: Six months to Sept. 30. Figs. in £000. Turnover £12.5m (£10.5m). Profit £1.2m (£0.8m). Directors intend to recommend a final of not less than 1p which would make a total of 1.4p (1.4p) for the 16 months to March 31, 1985. Figs. in £000. Turnover 24,172 (20,445). Profit 222 (265).

● SCOTT'S RESTAURANT has conditionally agreed to acquire Drones Restaurant for £150,000. The deal is subject to a number of conditions.

● BLACK ARROW GROUP: Interim div. 1.5p (1.25p) for six months to Sept. 30. Figs. in £000. Turnover 4,222 (3,984). Pre-tax profit 590 (420).

● PTAL: Half-year to Sept. 30. Figs. in £000. Turnover 11,463 (16,199). Pre-tax profit 832 (536).

TEMPUS

Growth year at ANZ despite deregulation

Deregulation of Australia's financial system does not appear to have harmed the large domestic banks. Competition from foreign banks may eventually bring new pressures, but recent results from the big Australian banks show that the past year has been a period of strong growth.

Yesterday the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) reported a 36 per cent rise to A\$269 million (£184 million) in after-tax profits in the year to September 30. This follows last week's announcement from Westpac Banking, of a 38 per cent rise in net earnings to a record A\$306 million.

Comparison is with a difficult while the previous year, but both banking groups recorded strong growth in their domestic banking activities. This appears to reflect improved net interest income helped by lower funding costs.

The Australian economy has been moving in the right direction, and ANZ has also benefited from a first-time contribution from Development Finance Corporation while its savings bank subsidiary has moved ahead.

ANZ has not included any contribution above the line from Grindlays Bank, which it bought for £182 million. The deal was only finalized in September, which was perhaps just as well as Grindlays shows a profit of only £11 million (£15.6 million) before special items in the nine months to end-September compared with £26 million in the previous 12 months, but a large loss after special items. Grindlays has made a special £80 million transfer to general provision in relation to sovereign risk exposure to bring it into line with ANZ policy.

ANZ has written off the goodwill associated with buying Grindlays amounting to A\$115 million and this is the main reason net attributable profits were down from A\$198 million to A\$122 million.

ANZ proposes a one-for-10 scrip issue and a 15 cents final dividend to make 30 cents for the year compared with 23 cents. The shares were unchanged in London yesterday at 366p.

Brewers

The stock market thinks the brewers will not suffer too much or too long from the miner's strike. Such is the clear reading from a study of the main brewers' price relative performances during the last month. Bass, Allied-Lyons and Whitbread, for example, have all risen sharply against the market, consistent with the view that normal drinking will shortly be resumed in the pits.

In other words, the sector's underperformance, which began in July with Scottish & Newcastle's comments about poor summer brewing volumes, is now reversing itself. Yet for the shareholder fund manager, any November rally probably offers useful switching opportunities.

As Mr John Spicer, of Griesonson Grant, points out, the biggest single force for change among brewers has been the high jobless level since the start of the decade. As a result, beer output fell between 1979 and 1982, more or less for the first time since the war.

The brewers' reaction to the fall in demand has been complex. New markets, like the take-home with its tiny overhead cost component, have been developed, notably by

Allied-Lyons, Bass and Whitbread. The brewers have pushed hard, while tanning excess capacity as fast as possible, in the last five years, 15 breweries have been closed. Prices have risen very quickly.

Bass, the largest beer producer, looks to have survived this pace of change in remarkably good shape. It appears to be expanding beer market share quite rapidly, probably at the expense of the regional, and building up an unassailable lead. Full year figures in December of perhaps £220 million, up 25 per cent, could herald £250 million next year.

At Whitbread, with interim figures on Wednesday, could generate most interest. Interim profits may be ahead by only 16 per cent to £58 million, but ruthless cutbacks recently in production capacity, may make Whitbread the most efficient brewer in the sector. A marked out performance in October means the market is expecting great things.

Ivory & Sime

Ivory & Sime moved sweetly during the first six months. A 7 per cent rise in income to £2.5 million reflects a 10 per cent increase in clients, taking funds under management up to £1.75 billion, and the client base up to 70, of which about 40 are pension funds.

The house was slightly amused that its underwriting quota on BT was scaled down, given the size of the issue, but still considers the British market offers good value. Wall Street has seen a sharp shake-out among smaller companies, which will not be reversed until the Federal Reserve Board injects greater liquidity into the banking system. Japan is still the most attractive market,

Keith Hunt investors still wait as legal action drags on

By Alison Eadie

When Keith Hunt deserted his Warwick-based financial empire in April, 1983, as the Department of Trade pressed its inquiries about his affairs, his 2,000 or so investors were understandably shocked. They were even more shocked when it emerged that about £11m had gone missing of a supposed £18m, including dealing profits, under management.

Mr Hunt has never returned to explain the disappearance and a warrant for his arrest was issued last June. In the meantime money reclaimed from bank accounts both here and overseas plus sales of property, paintings, cars and other assets have netted a sum close to £6m.

Liabilities stand at £16.6m of which relates to profits on Mr Hunt's reported dealing activities. But the unfortunate investors have not seen a penny of their money and are still struggling to reclaim at least some of what they put in.

The creditors' meeting scheduled for February, 1984, then rescheduled for October 12 has now been postponed until January 31 next year. Investors are growing increasingly concerned that the remaining assets will be swallowed up in legal and accountants' fees and court costs leaving them with precious little.

A court case brought by the investors at the end of July to try to prove their money was held in trust, so giving them a superior claim in the share-out over trade creditors, backfired. Not only did Mr Justice Harman rule the trust status of all but one of the investors, but he also ruled that investors would be barred from voting at the first creditors' meeting, because their claims were unliquidated.

An unliquidated claim occurs when a creditor cannot state the exact amount of the claim. Mr Justice Harman ruled the claims were unliquidated because he also, in a surprise move, held that investors could claim the original money they put in and the fictitious profits gained.

Mr Hunt has produced no evidence of the dealing activities in the commodity futures markets, in which he claimed to be making annualized profits of 88 per cent since he set up

business in 1978. The question is whether the funds were really traded in the futures markets or whether his elaborate organization of 40 technical analysts, who spent their time plotting charts, was just a sham.

Investors will certainly appeal against the part of the decision barring them from voting at the first creditors' meeting and may make a general appeal against the whole judgment. But they will wait until a transcript of the judgment is available. The court transcript is still with the judge and no one has yet had sight of it.

The Official Receiver, who is also provisional liquidator for Mr Hunt's companies, is waiting to see the outcome of a possible appeal, before proceeding with the creditors' meeting. Were the written judgment still not available by January, the creditors' meeting would have to be postponed yet again.

The situation is complicated further by the existence of different sets of investors. Most invested through Mr Hunt's master company, Exchange Securities and Commodities, but a good number put money with Mr Hunt's bookmaking company, Futures Index, and about 200 invested personally with Mr Hunt.

The Futures Index clients fared rather better than they may have expected in a court case again before Mr Justice Harman on October 5. He held that their money was recoverable, despite section 18 of the 1845 Gaming Act, which provided that no suit should be brought to recover any sum won upon a wager or "which shall have been deposited in the hands of any person to abide the event on which any wager shall have been made."

They were also not barred from voting at the first creditors' meeting.

The personal investors, who are owed £1.5m or £3.5m with fictitious profits, sums not included in the Official Receiver's £16.6m assessment of total liabilities - have fared poorly.

As creditors of Mr Hunt's personal bankruptcy, they were excluded from the July court

hearing, which dealt only with company creditors. An application by Cork Gully, trustee for the bankruptcy, to be party to July's court proceedings was opposed by the Official Receiver.

Cork Gully has suggested the simplest and cheapest solution to the complicated web of claims and counter claims is to pool the money for the benefit of all creditors. Each should get a percentage of what was originally put in.

The Official Receiver, however, has not responded to Cork Gully's suggestion, nor agreed to a meeting with the investors' advisors to discuss a way out of the impasse. His stance is that all must wait for the outcome of a possible appeal against the July judgment.

He has also, underlining the competition between the groups of investors, demanded from Cork Gully those assets nominally in Mr Hunt's name, saying they belong to the companies.

Mr Joe Dwek, chairman of Bodycote International and a claimant against both the companies and the personal bankruptcy, wrote to the Department of Trade and Industry in September expressing disquiet about the proceedings. He said the conduct of both the

liquidation and bankruptcy were under the department's control yet "different sections of your department seem determined to make expensive litigation inevitable, when those really entitled to the money are only too anxious to seek a simple solution."

He said the DTI was not acting in the interest of the creditors, but in the interest of the lawyers. A reply from an inspector general of the Insolvency Services Division at the DTI explained that the problems were more complicated than they first appeared because of all the various cross actions. The final solution would have to wait until after the appeal, which is still waiting for the written judgment to appear.

The moral of this extraordinary tale is to be doubly careful where you invest your money in the first place. Investors and their advisers should not assume that the new era of supervised self-regulation, which will take in commodity futures for the first time, will remove the risk of coming across individuals like Mr Hunt.

And even if there is money left after a firm has crashed or its leader vanished into the blue, there is a long way to go before you will receive any of it back.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street was mixed in moderate early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up 2.32 to 1,190.26. The NYSE index was down 0.10 to 94.60 and the price of an average share was down 4 cents.

Declines led advances 736-417 among the 1693 issues crossing the NYSE tape.

First hour bid board volume amounted to about 19 million shares compared with 21.42 million in the same period on Friday.

Personal investors, who are owed £1.5m or £3.5m with fictitious profits, sums not included in the Official Receiver's £16.6m assessment of total liabilities - have fared poorly.

As creditors of Mr Hunt's personal bankruptcy, they were excluded from the July court

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		ALUMINUM	
Rubber in £'s per tonnet (Congo, 100% natural, 100% natural, 100% natural)		Dec	946.00-947.50
US\$ per metric ton		Jan	973.50-974.50
		Feb	7778
RUBBER		TIN	
Dec	615.00	Dec	3782-3787
Jan	625.10	Jan	3403-3408
Feb	625.10	Feb	346
Mar	644.25	TIN	
Apr	665.00	Dec	3782-3787
May	678.00	Jan	3403-3408
Jun	678.00	Feb	346
Jul	678.00	TIN	
Aug	678.00	Dec	3782-3787
Sep	678.00	Jan	3403-3408
Oct	678.00	Feb	346
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May	678		

Legal Appointments

Recently Qualified Lawyer

Your First Challenge In Industry

Total Oil Marine currently delivers almost 40% of the U.K.'s natural gas requirements and is a substantial North Sea operator committed to an expanding programme of offshore activity. We are now developing the Alwyn North Field as an important new source of both oil and gas for Britain.

We are looking for a lawyer to join the small legal department at our Head Office in London. Probably in your mid twenties, you will assist with the negotiation and drafting of a wide variety of commercial agreements including joint venture agreements. You will also contribute to advice on exploration, development and production activities as well as on other legal aspects of the Company's business.

A solicitor or barrister, you have probably demonstrated your keen oil industry interest by acquiring a relevant post graduate qualification. You will have some knowledge of French and are seeking commercial experience in an environment which encourages steady personal development.

This position carries a highly competitive index-linked salary plus the comprehensive range of benefits usually associated with a major oil company.

Please telephone or write to the company's adviser, Sue Jagger, of Cripps, Sears and Associates Ltd. (Personnel Management Consultants), 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Telephone 01-404 5701 (24 hours).

Total Oil Marine

Cripps, Sears

Commercial Lawyer

Manchester

c £15,000

Costain Petrocarbon Limited, is an international leader in the supply of process engineering services to the energy and chemical process industries. The company is a Manchester based subsidiary of Costain Group plc, a major British contractor working in the UK and overseas.

Based in our in-house Legal Department, the major responsibilities will include the drafting and negotiation of multi-million pound commercial contracts and the arrangement of project finance and insurance. The role will also involve some litigation and occasional overseas visits.

Probably aged 27-40, you'll be a qualified Solicitor or Barrister with at least five years' post-qualification experience, preferably in industry or commerce.

Salary will be negotiable around the quoted figure, supplemented by large group benefits and relocation assistance if required. Career development prospects are excellent within this rapidly expanding organisation.

Please telephone for an application form, or write enclosing a comprehensive C.V., to David Stagg, Employee Relations Officer, Costain Petrocarbon Limited, Petrocarbon House, Sharncliffe Road, Manchester M22 4TB. Tel: 061-938 7000.

Costain is an equal opportunity employer.

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL

London

£28,000+

A top grade solicitor is sought for the U.K. operation of a world leading computer company as a sole appointment.

It is a dynamic firm at the forefront of high technology development and deals in all aspects of product sales and marketing.

Consequently, depth of personality is as important to them as a broad spectrum of experience which will have been gained in either commerce or private practice. This could include company and commercial law, commercial litigation and possibly some intellectual property exposure.

They would prefer a person in their late twenties up to mid thirties, looking for a long term international career. Some travel overseas will be involved, mostly to the United States and Europe.

The company's generous benefits package includes a car and stock option scheme.

Applications in strict confidence to Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852. Quoting Ref: TW/C122.

REUTER
SIMKIN
RECRUITMENT

Commercial Lawyer

over £20,000 + car

A well-established and expanding independent oil company, with offices in Central London, is seeking to recruit a Lawyer - Solicitor or Barrister - with commercial experience gained in either industry or private practice. Experience in the oil industry is not essential.

The successful candidate will report to the Legal Counsel and will be involved in all aspects of the company's business, including acquisitions, joint venture work, and the negotiation and drafting of commercial agreements. Some foreign travel will be required. It is important that he or she have the ability to work independently.

In addition to salary a company car will be provided together with other benefits.

Please send personal details to: Michael Chambers, Chambers & Partners, 74 Long Lane, London EC1, or telephone us on (01) 606 9371.

Chambers & Partners
Professional Recruitment

JARVIS AND BANNISTER

will provide 6 months litigation experience for an articulated clerk seeking transfer.

Apply with full CV to Jarvis and Bannister, 25-27 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8SP (Ref AB).

CLYDE & Co.

is a 42-partner firm which has offices in London, Guildford and Hong Kong. Its work is of an international nature, primarily involving shipping, transportation and insurance matters. It has vacancies for:

Aviation Reinsurance, Shipping and Cargo Insurance Litigation

To assist a partner dealing partly with the Mainstream of the firm's work while specialising in aviation insurance and reinsurance. Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years post-qualification experience in general commercial practice with ability to assume a significant degree of responsibility and independence. Quoted ref: 2105.

General Marine & Insurance Litigation

To assist partners dealing with the broad range of the firm's work including cargo losses and damage, charterparty, insurance and commodity disputes. These positions would suit applicants who are about to qualify or who have qualified in the last two years. Quoted ref: 2106.

Applicants for these positions must have a good academic record, an appetite for demanding work and a well-developed sense of humour. Experience in commercial litigation is an advantage but not essential. There are excellent prospects of partnership for the right people. Salaries will be competitive and commensurate with age and experience. Applicants should write, enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and quoting the appropriate reference number to Mrs. Indira Brown, Corporate Resourcing Group, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Tel: 01-222 5555.

Corporate Resourcing Group

Management Consultants - Executive Search

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COMPANY SECRETARY/COMMERCIAL LAWYER

£ FULLY NEGOTIABLE + PRESTIGE CAR + BENEFITS. NEAR CHESTER

Iceland Frozen Foods Holdings plc are a highly successful retail company who have just made a spectacular debut on the Stock Exchange.

We have 82 freezer centres throughout most of England and Wales and are now ready to accelerate our expansion programme.

We have a young highly motivated Management Team who share in decision making and enjoy the excitement of this fast moving operation.

We are seeking a bright commercially aware Lawyer who in addition to the statutory duties of company secretary will take responsibility for all legal matters affecting the group and in the briefing of and liaison with external solicitors and other advisers.

With our active acquisition programme lease work and property related matters will be an

important part of the job. A contribution to the wider aspects of corporate policy will also be expected eventually.

The ideal candidate will be young, legally qualified and will have gained a minimum of 2 years post-qualification experience in the commercial department of private practice or in a company's legal department. Effective communication skills and the personality usually associated with a senior management position are essential.

We offer a generous financial package, relocation expenses and a superb working environment.

Candidates, male or female, should write giving full personal and career details quoting Ref. T71.

To: Mr Malcolm Walker, Joint Managing Director.

Iceland

FROZEN FOODS plc

Second Avenue, Decade Industrial Park, Decade, Chesham CH5 2NW Telephone 02944 812355

Frere Cholmeley

PROPERTY LAWYER

Frere Cholmeley are looking for a young property solicitor to work in their busy and expanding Property Department.

The work is varied and demanding and there will be an emphasis on all aspects of commercial property work including landlord and tenant matters and planning law.

The successful applicant will have been qualified for not more than three years, have a good academic background and an ability to mix well. An attractive salary will be paid to the successful applicant.

Applications should be made in writing with a C.V. to:

The Administration Partner,
Frere Cholmeley,

28 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3HH.

SOLICITOR

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/COMPETITION LAWYER

Macfarlanes require a senior assistant solicitor with specialist experience in Intellectual Property and EEC and UK Competition Law and practice.

Applicants should ideally have at least two years' post qualification experience in this work, but less senior applicants of high ability will be considered.

The work involved is varied and demanding and the prospects are excellent. Salary and working conditions are attractive.

Applications with full C.V. to D. Hayes, Macfarlanes, 10 Norwich Street, London EC4A 1BD.

MACFARLANES

SOLICITORS

PROPERTY LAWYERS

Macfarlanes require assistant solicitors with good experience to join their expanding property department in the following fields:

1. Commercial Property;
2. Lending work; and
3. General and residential conveyancing.

Applications are invited from solicitors of high ability; preferably (but not essentially) they should have at least two years' post-qualification experience.

The work involved is varied and demanding and the prospects are excellent. Salary and working conditions are attractive.

Applications with full C.V. to R. M. Farmy, Macfarlanes, 10 Norwich Street, London EC4A 1BD.

MACFARLANES

WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE

Ratcliffe, Duce & Gammer has a vacancy for a recently admitted solicitor mainly for general & matrimonial litigation. Applicants will preferably have at least one year's post admission experience of these areas, although someone more recently admitted with excellent experience during articles may be considered. Salary according to age & experience.

Please apply in writing with cv to:

86 Rose Street,
Wokingham RG11 1XU
(ref: JPH)
Marked "Confidential"

TRAINEE COURT CLERK

£3,204 - £6,396

Applications are invited for the above post from persons with suitable and relevant experience in the legal profession. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a period of training in the legal profession. The salary is £3,204 - £6,396 per annum. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a period of training in the legal profession. The salary is £3,204 - £6,396 per annum.

A. M. Weston
Clerk to the Justice
Luton Magistrates' Court,
Stuart Street, Luton LU1 1SL.

INDUSTRY

CONSTRUCTION LAWYER TO £20,000 + CAR. Work to be done in the construction industry. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a period of training in the legal profession. The salary is £20,000 + CAR per annum.

PRIVATE PRACTICE. Work to be done in the legal profession. The successful candidate will be required to undertake a period of training in the legal profession. The salary is £20,000 + CAR per annum.

Chambers & Partners
74 Long Lane, London EC1 1JL
01-606 9371

Chambers vacancy. Solicitor 15 years call, recently returned from Hong Kong where he was as a solicitor. He is seeking a position in the legal profession. The salary is £20,000 + CAR per annum.

Box 0536 R, The Times

also on page 26

Group Legal Adviser

Central London £25 - £30,000 Plus Car

Our client is a high growth publicly quoted group which is acknowledged as one of the largest advertising contractors in the U.K. with broad interests in the communications industry. It is the leading outdoor advertising company and has extensive involvement in specialised publishing, and full service showcase contract advertising. Industry sectors include hotels, leisure, office complexes and shopping precincts, airports, international travel and local authority developments.

They now need to appoint a Group Legal Adviser who, reporting to the Managing Director, will play an important role in future expansion. Key tasks will be to develop a full in-house group legal service for contract drafting and the supervision of all sales purchase contracts along with assisting with the management of their extensive property portfolio. There will be active involvement in Stock Exchange matters and the Group's expansion plans. Ultimately a Board appointment is envisaged.

Candidates aged 30-38 who are qualified solicitors or barristers, will have an active legal role in a progressive company or enlightened Local Authority. Knowledge of advertising law would be helpful but practical experience of contracts is essential along with commercial flair.

Candidates should apply in writing enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae and quoting reference GEF2109 to Geoffrey E. Forester, Corporate Resourcing Group Limited, 6 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RL. Telephone 01-222 5555.

Corporate Resourcing Group

Management Consultants - Executive Search

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Lawyer

International oil exploration and production

An interesting opportunity has arisen for a young lawyer with a business or commercial background to join our expanding international oil exploration and production division, which is part of the British-owned Burmah Oil plc. This position, which will involve international travel, is that of an Advisor within the Legal and Lands team, with responsibility for the legal aspects of agreements and contracts relating to our worldwide exploration and production activities.

The successful candidate will be aged between 26-32, and will take an active part in negotiations with other oil companies and government officials, as well as providing advice

and assistance to other professional members of the exploration team. Experience within the oil industry will be an advantage.

The highly competitive salary will be accompanied by attractive large-company benefits, and assistance is available, where necessary, with the cost of relocation to this delightful part of Wiltshire.

Please send a full cv or ring or write for an application form to D G Freeston, Group Recruitment & Information Manager, Burmah Oil Trading Limited, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1RE. Telephone: 0793 47400.

Burmah

Claremont Haynes & Co.

SOLICITORS

Claremont, Haynes & Co. are assembling a team of professionals to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. If you are a professional with Central London/City experience, intelligent with a first class academic record and wish to be part of a successful team, you are invited to apply for the following positions:-

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

This side of our practice has expanded considerably during the past few years and the solicitor joining us will share the role of increasing the momentum.

LITIGATION

We already have a varied litigation practice involving work mainly for commercial clients. The new team member will have the job of building on the long established foundations.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL

As we are a very old-established firm we have a variety of work within this classification. There is though undoubted scope for expansion and we look forward to supporting the new team member.

In all cases although not essential a following would be a distinct advantage.

We shall be offering an initial salary in the range £16,000 - £25,000. Subsequent progress will be geared to success.

Please write to:

Roger Smith
Claremont, Haynes & Co.,
31 Southampton Row,
London WC1B 5HT.

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

10.55 Haydn and Bartok Quartets:

Radio 2

ing 4.02, 5.85 Sports Desk, 5.00
Dunnit including 6.02 Sports Desk,
The Forsythe Saga, 6.45 Sport and
Serialized Reports (m) only, 8.00 The
American Power Song, Wrentham (5)
presented by Peter Wright, 9.00
ah Radio Content Chronicles, 9.55
to Desk, 10.00 Where Were You In
Guests include George Chisholm,
Peters and Sheila Steafel, 10.30
is Wabtoo. The people of
Wington, at the foot to the Yorkshire
play host to Rolf Harris, 11.00
Matthew presents Round Midnight
to from midnight, 1.00am Bill
presents Nightride, 1.30-4.00
Owle, 7

Radio 1
sodium wave, 1 denotes also VHF
o.
on the half-hour from 6.30 am
6.30pm and at 12.30 midnight
on Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Reed
Simon Bates, 12.00p Gary Davies
till 12.30 Newsbeat, 2.30 Steve
nt. 5.00 Bruno Brookes including
Newsbeat, 7.30 Janet Long.
12.00pm to 1.00pm with 1 With Radios
4.00pm With Radios 12.00pm
Radio 1, 12.00-4.00pm With Radio

WORLD SERVICE
Newsbeat, 7.00 World News, 7.00
Four Hours, 7.30 Sweet Soul Music.

[illegible]

Roundup, 11.50 World News, 11.30
entary, 11.15 Singers Of Schubert, 11.30
ent, 12.00 World News, 12.00 News
Press, 12.15 Newsweek, 12.30
us, 1.00 News Summary, 1.01 Outlook
Roundup On Religion, 1.41 Country Music
2.00 World News, 2.05 Review of the
Press, 2.15 Singers Of Schubert, 2.30
And Daughters, 2.40 World News, 3.00
And Britain, 3.15 The World Today,
Discovery, 4.00 Newsweek, 4.30
Life, 4.45 The World Today, 4.50
All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
★ Black and white, (R) Repeat

247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4:
58Hz/276m: VHF 94.9; World

As London except: 12.30pm
1.00 Sea in Their Blood, 1.20-
News, 3.30-4.00 Sons and
Daughters, 5.15 Gus Honeybun, 5.20-
Crossroads, 6.00 Today Show
8.25 Televisions, 8.30 Robinson
8.75, 7.00-7.20 Sounder, 11.40
script, 11.45 Streets of San
Francisco, 12.41am Closedown.

As London except: 1.20pm
Sons, 1.35-2.30 Country
Music, 3.00 Afternoon Club, 3.27-4.00
The High Road, 5.15-5.45 Sons
and Daughters, 6.00 Coast to Coast,
Police 5, 8.35 Crossroads, 7.00-

E TEES As London except:
1.20pm-1.30 News.
4.45 Breakfasts, 6.00 News, 6.12
News, 7.00-7.30 News, 7.30
Meremdale Farm, 11.40 News,
12.05 Key Thoughts, Closedown.

AMPIAN As London except:
12.30pm-1.00
Morning Time, 1.20-1.30 News, 6.00
News, 7.00-7.30 News, 7.30
Different Strokes, 11.40 Struggle
and News, Closedown.

ORDER As London except:
1.20pm-1.30 News, 3.00-
3.15-3.45 Breakfasts, 6.00

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 15.30 4.30. Wild Met 3.05
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also on page 26

Another 4,500 defy Austin picket lines

By Clifford Webb

The tough stance adopted by Mr Harold Musgrove, the chief executive of Austin Rover, is having its desired effect. Faced by his refusal to increase the company's pay offer and his use of the courts, another 4,500 workers crossed union picket lines yesterday at the key Longbridge and Cowley car assembly plants.

Last night more than 15,000 of the company's 28,000 manual workers were back at work and 11 of the 14 plants were working normally.

The biggest breakthrough came at Longbridge where 3,200 workers, nearly half the day shift, returned allowing reduced production to resume on Metro and Rover 200 assembly lines together with engine building in the cast works.

About 1,300 day shift workers returned at Cowley including 550 members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) who had voted to return at a mass meeting last Friday. Restricted production of Macstros started for the first time since the strike began a fortnight ago.

An Austin Rover spokesman said last night: "The strike is crumbling. We shall have over 15,000 back before tonight is out. They include about 5,000 AUEW members, and about the same number of transport union members."

But union leaders pointed out last night that modern car assembly plants cannot run efficiently if one cog is missing.

A shop steward picket at Longbridge said: "If only a few hundred workers stay out it will cost the company a fortune to make every single motor car. They cannot keep doing that for long and despite what the company claims they are only playing at making cars until we all go back."

British Leyland started to run down its Bathgate truck factory, at West Lothian, yesterday. The plant is to close in 1986. Axle assembly was transferred to the company's Albion works at Scotstoun, Glasgow.

A strike at Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside by 120 women machinists will continue indefinitely, the women decided yesterday. The strike started last week and so far 3,500 workers have been laid off with the loss of 900 cars each day.

Mr Justice Hodgson also adjourned until next Monday similar proceedings brought by the company against the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section). The union intends to apply for the injunction against them to be discharged.

Injunctions against three other craft unions were lifted by agreement after statements that they had never authorized or endorsed the strike. They were the Association of Pattern-makers and Allied Craftsmen, the General Municipal, Boiler-makers, and Allied Trades Union, and the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians.

Legal action against the Transport and General Workers' Union over its refusal to lift a strike instruction at Austin Rover, was adjourned until next Monday at the High Court yesterday. The company claims the union did not comply with new employment legislation that stipulates secret ballots must be held before strike action.

But Mr Ron Todd, general secretary-elect of the union, last night repeated his executive's defiance of the law and said they would not be represented in court.

He said: "We are aware of the punitive action that can be taken against us, but our position has not changed. We will not be responding to the court."

The union's position looks likely to result in action for contempt of court and possible sequestration of funds if fines are not paid.

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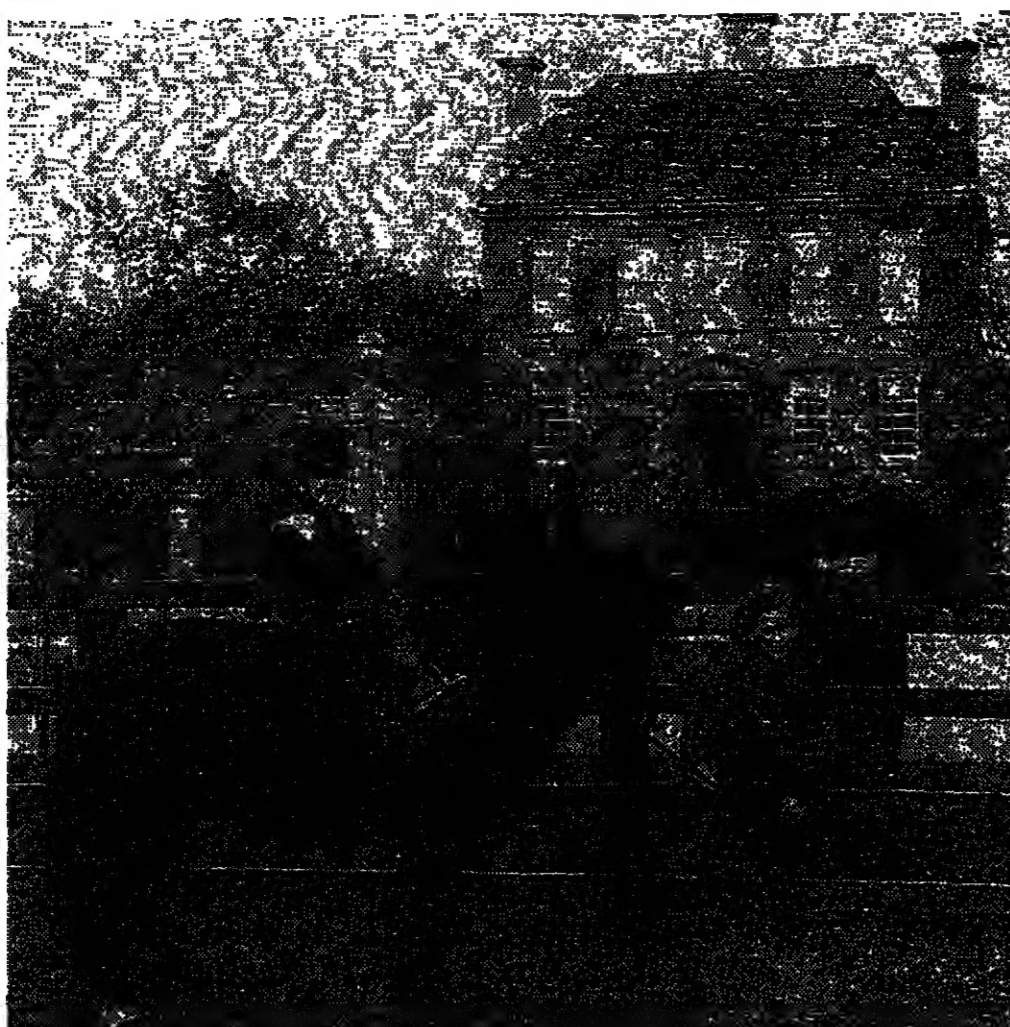
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Lord Fred and Lady Ella set out in style

Royal smiles: (Top) Princess Michael of Kent with her children, Lord Frederick Windsor, aged 5½ (right) and Lady Gabriella Windsor, aged 3½, who is on her pony, Dominic, in front of the family home, Nether Lytton Manor in Gloucestershire. (Below, left) A portrait of Lady Gabriella Windsor and (below right) Lord Frederick Windsor.

(Photographs: Tim Graham).

Gummer's facts wrong, say Bishops

Continued from page 1

ter was undermined by their failure to get their facts right. The day after their pronouncement the Save the Children Fund had had to point out that the church had not done its homework. Indeed, it checked what a Hercules transport plane could carry and what the Ethiopian logistical problems involved.

He was referring to a letter to the Prime Minister signed by the archbishop, the cardinal, and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Dr Howard Williams, to which, as Lambeth Palace pointed out, Mrs Thatcher replied without querying any of the facts.

The fund said yesterday: "Our only reference to the church was to say that the bishops had called for airlifting. They wanted action and they wanted action fast. We pointed out that airlifting was so tremendously expensive that none of the voluntary agencies could afford it."

"We said there could be difficulties in airlifting considerable quantities of food."

Father Anthony Churchill said the Archbishop of Canterbury had not been available the day the letter to the Prime Minister was published, and Cardinal Hume had spent the day giving interviews to the media in which he repeatedly said: "We are only bishops, and I'm not in a position to comment on what can be done by this or that aircraft."

Speaking for the cardinal, he went on: "Our point was that something had to be done. And the Hercules planes duly went there. So what is Mr Selwyn Gummer on about?"

There was substantial more anger in the churches yesterday about Mr Gummer's attack on church leaders over Ethiopia than about his more severe censure of the Bishop of Durham.

The bishop had been seen "not to have sought to tell the whole truth" in his General Synod speech last week, in which he referred to a family in which two children had to share one pair of shoes, Mr Gummer remarked.

Speaking in Middlesbrough last night, the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, said he had not intended to criticize the social services for their care of that family, but was trying to help them by pointing out how cuts in their resources made it impossible for them to meet commitments.

Letter from Peking Traffic chaos that cannot be ducked

One of Peking's most famous pleasures - roast duck - has become the symbol of its newest and most urgent problem. If the duck wanted to cross the road, it would have a long, long wait.

To be precise, the traffic problem has reached crisis point, and the worst bottleneck of all is outside the city's main duck restaurant, where a thousand diners can enjoy the delicacy at the same time. Communist countries used to be mocked for the sparseness of their traffic on the six-lane boulevards built by bombastic leaders. But nobody - Chinese or foreigner - is laughing now in Peking, only fuming at 25-minute waits at intersections, such as the one outside the duck restaurant.

The municipal authorities are running on the spot to keep up with the city's mounting traffic congestion, and in real terms they are falling behind. A few years ago their hunched horse and donkey carts in the daytime, so that one's sleep now is punctuated by the alluring clip-clop of the peasants' vehicles bringing in vegetables and other necessities from the countryside.

Then everybody blamed the cyclists, who are indeed reckless and oblivious of rules. On main thoroughfares they now have their own fenced-off lane. So the city council is thinking of banning lorries in the rush hour. But these are only short-term palliatives.

As Western cities discovered half a century ago, some congestion problems can be solved only with irksome one-way systems. A taxi driver recently overtook the turning for my destination and had to go round nearly two miles to get back to it. Overpasses and underpasses are sprouting fast in outer Peking, but in the city centre there is no such easy solution. Banning left-hand turns in some places (traffic drives on the right) just passes the problem on to the next intersection.

The recent National Day celebrations, for which all transport was banned, unless with official passes, for a mile on either side of the Tiananmen Gate, meant that a lot of people got so fed. Even bigwigs cannot always swish by in their curtained limousines.

David Bonavia

Union repeats decision to defy strike law

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Legal action against the Transport and General Workers' Union over its refusal to lift a strike instruction at Austin Rover, was adjourned until next Monday at the High Court yesterday. The company claims the union did not comply with new employment legislation that stipulates secret ballots must be held before strike action.

But Mr Ron Todd, general secretary-elect of the union, last night repeated his executive's defiance of the law and said they would not be represented in court.

He said: "We are aware of the punitive action that can be taken against us, but our position has not changed. We will not be responding to the court."

The union's position looks likely to result in action for contempt of court and possible sequestration of funds if fines are not paid.

Mr Justice Hodgson also adjourned until next Monday similar proceedings brought by the company against the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section). The union intends to apply for the injunction against them to be discharged.

Injunctions against three other craft unions were lifted by agreement after statements that they had never authorized or endorsed the strike. They were the Association of Pattern-makers and Allied Craftsmen, the General Municipal, Boiler-makers, and Allied Trades Union, and the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, 11.
The Duke of Edinburgh visits the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville hospital, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, 2.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens the North Woolwich Old Station Museum Project, 3.25; and later attends a Reception to be given by the London Canine Society, 4.30.

Association at the Royal Scottish Corporation, King St, WC2, 6.30.
Princess Anne attends the Variety Club of Great Britain Women of the Year Awards 1984 at the Queen's Hotel, Leam, 6.30.

Princess Margaret, as President, attends a dinner in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children at Cardiff Castle, 7.25.
Princess Michael of Kent attends London Contemporary Dance Gala, Sadlers Wells, 7.20.

Music
Concert by Circa 1500, Firth Hall, University of Sheffield, 7.30.

Farwell concert by Eric Schmidt, Cheltenham Town Hall, 7.30.
Recital by the Israeli Piano Trio, University of Ulster, Coleraine, 8.00.
Recital by Edna Arthur (violin), Neil Mantle (horn), Colin Kingsley (piano), Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Electron Transport in Metallic Glasses by Dr D Greig, Department of Physics, Leicester University, 2.15.
Fet, Parliament and the People, 1834 to 1846 by Prof. D Reid, the Town Hall, Tamworth, 3.30 and 7.30.

"The Art of the Portrait: The Portraits of the Nation States; the invention of the Portrait Miniature, by Mr John Murdoch, Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, 5.15.
Behold them in their Fine Army, Glasgow University students through the ages by Dr Lawrence Keppie, Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow, 7.30.

General
Auction of Paintings, Objects d'Art and Wine in aid of Manchester's New Contemporary Arts Centre, the Alexandra Suite, the Midland Hotel, Manchester, 8.

Exhibitions in progress
"Trapping the Elusive": Work by Patrick Hughes, MacRobert Arts Centre, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (Ends Nov 28).
Scottish Artists - face to face: portrait photographs by Jim Cunningham and paintings by the artists featured in the portraits, Little Art Gallery, Station Road, Milngavie, Tues to Fri 11 to 5, and 7 to 9, Sat and Sun 2 to 5 (Ends Nov 30).

Painting, sculpture and book illustration by Ota Jancsek, National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Park Place, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10 to 3, Sun 2.30 to 5 (Ends Jan 6).

Commons (2.30): New Towns and Urban Development Corporation Bill, second reading. Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, remaining stages.
Lords (2.30): Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, and Family Law (Scotland) Bill, second readings. Debate on Nicaragua.

Anniversaries
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